

## READING WISELY

An **astute** reader can **surmise** the logic and general meaning of a text without necessarily being influenced by it. She has the mental **acuity** to separate fact from opinion. She does not shun the latter but instead weighs **proffered** insights according to the **probity** of the writer as well as the degree to which subjective views conform with her experience, values, and **prudence**.

1. The mayor's business dealings left his \_\_\_\_\_ open to question.
2. To receive a driver's license you must demonstrate your visual \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the hallmark of a sound investment strategy.
4. Above all, a hiring manager must be a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ judge of character.
5. The professor \_\_\_\_\_ the following advice: choose a well-researched topic.
6. From his demeanor, Beth \_\_\_\_\_ that her brother wished to be left alone.

- |              |       |  |
|--------------|-------|--|
| 7. astute    | _____ | a. to determine by observation and deduction |
| 8. surmise   | _____ | b. to present in a helpful manner            |
| 9. acuity    | _____ | c. upright moral character                   |
| 10. proffer  | _____ | d. caution; good sense                       |
| 11. probity  | _____ | e. clever; keenly observant                  |
| 12. prudence | _____ | f. sharpness; perceptiveness                 |

## INFORMATION OVERLOAD

Though information technology has put a glut of it at our fingertips, knowledge is not always power. A healthy democracy does depend on a citizenry **cognizant** of facts and **apprised** of current events. To be truly **circumspect** about it, however, we **concoct** so many studies, "news" articles, and angry screeds for **perusal** that readers can become numb, while the **pedantic** merely use facts and talking points to impress.

1. The teacher easily saw through the excuse her student had \_\_\_\_\_.
2. An array of intelligence services keeps the president \_\_\_\_\_ of foreign

and domestic threats to national security.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ of what the pitcher was about to throw, the center fielder confidently swung the bat.

4. Einstein was modest and never \_\_\_\_\_ toward those who lacked his brilliance.

5. While the young are prone to rashness, the old are more \_\_\_\_\_ .

6. The young couple had their attorney \_\_\_\_\_ the contract before they would sign it.

7. cognizant \_\_\_\_\_ a. to review with care

8. apprise \_\_\_\_\_ b. thoughtful; cautious

9. circumspect \_\_\_\_\_ c. showing off one's knowledge

10. concoct \_\_\_\_\_ d. to be aware of specific information

11. peruse \_\_\_\_\_ e. to create or prepare

12. pedantic \_\_\_\_\_ f. to provide information

### LEND FEW THY TONGUE

Sylvia was a **canny** survivor. For months one decree after another came down from the new management team without any input from the workforce. Accustomed to a more open corporate culture, griping colleagues found themselves victims of “restructuring.” Sylvia had found that a **politic** approach gave her a better chance at keeping her post. Thus, she maintained an **introspective** silence. When the atmosphere finally became too toxic, she crafted a corporate memo offering a **cogent** analysis of company failings with many **incisive** critiques. After **ruminating** over whether to send it, however, she chose instead to polish her resume and begin the search for an employer that deserved her skills and loyalty.

1. Luddendorf's \_\_\_\_\_ , feverish mind was steadied by Hindenberg's pragmatism and calmness; together they formed a highly effective leadership team.

2. Dole and Clinton were \_\_\_\_\_ in their eulogies of the polarizing Nixon, choosing to focus on his many foreign policy achievements while glossing over the Watergate scandal.

3. The quiet of nature allows us a chance to \_\_\_\_\_ , finding insights into

and solutions for the vexations of everyday life.

4. A \_\_\_\_\_ argument will always win more people over than a convoluted one.

5. Malik is naturally more \_\_\_\_\_, often apologizing for breaches of etiquette that are barely noticed, if at all.

6. Lincoln's kindly, story-telling persona belied what a \_\_\_\_\_ politician he was.

7. canny \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** inward looking; self-aware

8. politic \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** expressed clearly and forcefully

9. introspective \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** careful to avoid giving offense; shrewd

10. cogent \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to consider carefully

11. incisive \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** perceptive; astute

12. ruminate \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** clear and penetrating; harsh

### NERVOUS NELLY

Contract signing always made Chris feel **pensive**. He had done his job well, bringing buyers and sellers together. This was the moment when he would earn his commission, but past experience had taught him to take a **pragmatic** view: so many things could still go wrong. **Perspicacious** first-time homebuyers asked many questions, some reasonable and **trenchant**, others quibbling and paranoid. To assuage their fears as much as possible, he felt it best to be transparent. "The contract **stipulates** \$20,000 in earnest money," he pointed out, then added, **pedagogically**, "That's a down payment the sellers keep in case you back out before closing."

1. Few modern satirists are as \_\_\_\_\_ as H. L. Mencken, whose wit was devastating.

2. Elle's \_\_\_\_\_ expression stood out in the sea of smiling faces in the class photo.

3. As a natural \_\_\_\_\_, Malini was a font of both useful information and trivia.

4. The visionary Root designed buildings of sublime beauty for the clients secured by

the charming and \_\_\_\_\_ Burnham.

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ general manager, “Stick” Michael, assembled the Yankee dynasty of the late 1990s by recognizing the latent potential of unsung prospects and free agents.

6. The terms \_\_\_\_\_ in the labor agreement are so clear that management and the workforce rarely have serious disagreements.

7. pensive \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to set as a condition for an agreement

8. pragmatic \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** teacher; one who offers unsolicited information

9. perspicacious \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** observant; sarcastically witty

10. trenchant \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** thoughtful; nervous

11. stipulate \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** perceptive; discerning

12. pedagogue \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** having a practical point of view

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. acuity \*\*\*\*\* **a.** to be aware of specific information

2. apprise \*\*\*\*\* **b.** having a practical point of view

3. astute \*\*\*\*\* **c.** to consider carefully

4. canny \*\*\*\*\* **d.** thoughtful; nervous

5. circumspect \*\*\*\*\* **e.** perceptive; astute\*; cautious

6. cogent \*\*\*\*\* **f.** upright moral character

7. cognizant \*\*\*\*\* **g.** perceptive; discerning

8. concoct \*\*\*\*\* **h.** expressed clearly and forcefully

9. incisive \*\*\*\*\* **i.** to determine by observation and deduction

10. introspective \*\*\*\*\* **j.** teacher; one who offers unsolicited information

11. pedagogue \*\*\*\*\* **k.** clear and penetrating; harsh

12. pedantic \*\*\*\*\* **l.** thoughtful; cautious

13. pensive \*\*\*\*\* **m.** observant; sarcastically witty

14. perspicacious \*\*\*\*\* **n.** showing off one’s knowledge

15. peruse \*\*\*\*\* **o.** to set as a condition for an agreement

16. politic \*\*\*\*\* **p.** caution; good sense

17. pragmatic	***** q. careful to avoid giving offense; shrewd
18. probity	***** r. clever; keenly observant
19. proffer	***** s. to review with care
20. prudence	***** t. sharpness; perceptiveness
21. ruminate	***** u. to provide information
22. stipulate	***** v. to present in a helpful manner
23. surmise	***** w. to create or prepare
24. trenchant	***** x. inward looking; self-aware

## TO THE POINT

Calvin Coolidge was one of the most *dilatory* presidents in history. Elevated to the Oval Office by the unexpected death of his predecessor, Warren Harding, Coolidge presided over the boom economy of the Roaring Twenties. While an improvement over the *unsavory* scandals of the Harding days, the benign neglect of the Coolidge administration allowed the *iniquities* of the era to thrive. Believing government should do as little possible, Coolidge was no *egotist*; he avoided grand gestures and was *infamous* for his laconic speech. One Sunday, after Mr. Coolidge had listened to an interminable sermon, a throng of newsmen gathered around him. An intrepid reporter asked: “Mr. President, we know that the sermon was on the topic of sin. What did the minister say?” Coolidge replied, somewhat *impishly*, “He was against it.”

1. The 1919 White Sox are \_\_\_\_\_ for accepting bribes to throw the World Series.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ behavior of their two-year-old made the Antonuccis miss their flight.
3. The kitten had an \_\_\_\_\_ streak, often pouncing on unsuspecting passersby.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ details of his dishonesty ruined the ambassador’s public image.
5. Prior to the Fair Housing Act of 1968, minority renters faced entrenched \_\_\_\_\_ in their search for quality homes and apartments.
6. An unrepentant \_\_\_\_\_, Walter White is as reckless as he is arrogant,

rising and falling spectacularly during his brief criminal career.

7. dilatory \_\_\_\_\_ a. well known for negative reasons; notorious  
8. unsavory \_\_\_\_\_ b. slow; tending to cause delay  
9. egotist \_\_\_\_\_ c. mischievous  
10. iniquity \_\_\_\_\_ d. conceited; boastful  
11. infamous \_\_\_\_\_ e. wickedness; unfairness  
12. impish \_\_\_\_\_ f. distasteful; morally questionable

### IF I HAD THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL

Casting a furtive glance over his shoulder, the **miscreant** slipped out the main prison gate, his **slovenly** appearance unnoticed in the British fog. Though few, if any, figures in mainstream media made **untoward** remarks about the penal system, the plethora of escapes from supposedly secure prisons embarrassed the **asinine** wardens. To compound their problems, irate citizens spread **scurrilous** rumors that some guards were accepting bribes from **brigands** and thieves whose motto was: “Stone walls do not a prison make, nor iron bars a cage.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_ dress and grooming belies the impressiveness of any resume.  
2. The presence of \_\_\_\_\_ on the plains during the nineteenth century was a natural consequence of the failure to develop adequate law enforcement.  
3. Many, but by no means all, \_\_\_\_\_ grow up without proper parental guidance.  
4. In the minds of many voters, the arcane details of public policy are no match for the \_\_\_\_\_  
5. Hannibal defeated well-disciplined Roman legions led by \_\_\_\_\_ commanders.  
6. The politician, rather than apologize for the \_\_\_\_\_ comments he had made, claimed that they were taken out of context.

7. miscreant \_\_\_\_\_ a. inappropriate  
8. slovenly \_\_\_\_\_ b. robber  
9. untoward \_\_\_\_\_ c. vulgar

10. asinine \_\_\_\_\_ d. immoral person  
11. scurrilous \_\_\_\_\_ e. foolish  
12. brigand \_\_\_\_\_ f. sloppy in appearance

## UNEARNED RESPECT

The young can be forgiven the **callow** conviction that they are the center of the universe. After all, the constant validation of early childhood makes each of us feel talented and special. While there's nothing **sinister** about parents seeking to instill confidence in their children, some grow up to be adults with a **pathological** need for praise, often coupled with an inability to acknowledge criticism or to persevere in the face of failure. A hallmark of such **megalomania** is to consider oneself a master of any skill, refusing to accept that without hard work one remains a **dilettante** in all endeavors. Such individuals who attain positions of power surround themselves with obsequious "yes men" who spare them such hard truths.

1. The cardiologist politely withheld comment as the \_\_\_\_\_ lectured her about the latest heart-healthy fad diet.
2. Iago's \_\_\_\_\_ demeanor gives Othello no reason to suspect him of treachery.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ speaker, Wilfred's use of impressive vocabulary cannot conceal the vapidness of his discourse.
4. While a runner on second base stealing a catcher's signs is a time-honored tradition, there's something \_\_\_\_\_ about using long-range photographic equipment.
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ liar will make false statements about easily verifiable facts.
6. Germany began to lose the Second World War when Hitler's \_\_\_\_\_ caused him to ignore or overrule his general staff.

7. callow \_\_\_\_\_ a. caused by disease; abnormal  
8. sinister \_\_\_\_\_ b. one who has superficial knowledge of a subject  
9. pathological \_\_\_\_\_ c. excessively flattering  
10. megalomania \_\_\_\_\_ d. immature; inexperienced  
11. dilettante \_\_\_\_\_ e. delusions of greatness

12. obsequious \_\_\_\_\_ f. threatening; foreboding

## CASTLES OF AIR

No form of securities fraud is as **sordid** as the Ponzi Scheme. In 1920, Charles Ponzi, a charming Italian immigrant whose name was soon to become **nefarious**, set up a company to take advantage of a loophole that made it possible to purchase postage in Italy and redeem it for more valuable U.S. stamps. He promised investors a 50% profit within three months and attracted \$1,800 in startup capital. Ponzi met his initial target and, thanks to the economic **bias** known as “fear of missing out,” within months he had amassed millions in new investment capital. Unfortunately, when Ponzi’s postage idea didn’t work, he **callously** began paying out “profits” to older investors with newly invested money. As long as **servile** reverence for Ponzi’s supposed financial acumen persisted, he was safe as most simply reinvested their profits. By July of 1920, however, investigators realized that no legitimate firm could consistently offer such large returns. Ponzi’s exposure was more than a **lurid** national scandal: his investors had been cheated out of \$20 million (roughly \$200 million today), and his name became a byword for corruption.

1. Predatory animals have an instinctive \_\_\_\_\_ toward hunting easier prey.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ aversion of his eyes betrays how much Theon has suffered at his captor’s hands.
3. High-speed chases, while captivating news, show a \_\_\_\_\_ disregard for public safety and should be avoided.
4. George Remus left the \_\_\_\_\_ business of distributing bribes to underlings.
5. All of suspects were, in fact, guilty, but the victim was such a \_\_\_\_\_ blackmailer that the inspector chose to report that an unknown assailant was responsible.
6. Sensationalist newspapers devote color photographs and banner headlines to the most

7. sordid \_\_\_\_\_ a. villainous; notorious

8. nefarious \_\_\_\_\_ b. insensitive

9. bias \_\_\_\_\_ c. slavish



- 10.** callous \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** distasteful
- 11.** servile \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** repulsive; horrifying
- 12.** lurid \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** favoritism

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- 1.** asinine \*\*\*\*\* **a.** repulsive; horrifying
- 2.** bias \*\*\*\*\* **b.** delusions of greatness
- 3.** brigand \*\*\*\*\* **c.** slavish
- 4.** callous \*\*\*\*\* **d.** evil person
- 5.** callow \*\*\*\*\* **e.** robber
- 6.** dilatory \*\*\*\*\* **f.** sloppy in appearance
- 7.** dilettante \*\*\*\*\* **g.** foolish
- 8.** egotist \*\*\*\*\* **h.** vulgar
- 9.** impish \*\*\*\*\* **i.** insensitive
- 10.** infamous \*\*\*\*\* **j.** inappropriate
- 11.** iniquity \*\*\*\*\* **k.** one who has superficial knowledge of a subject
- 12.** lurid \*\*\*\*\* **l.** well known for negative reasons
- 13.** megalomania \*\*\*\*\* **m.** threatening; foreboding
- 14.** miscreant \*\*\*\*\* **n.** excessively flattering
- 15.** nefarious \*\*\*\*\* **o.** favoritism
- 16.** obsequious \*\*\*\*\* **p.** mischievous
- 17.** pathological \*\*\*\*\* **q.** slow; tending to cause delay
- 18.** scurrilous \*\*\*\*\* **r.** villainous; notorious
- 19.** servile \*\*\*\*\* **s.** distasteful
- 20.** sinister \*\*\*\*\* **t.** wickedness; unfairness
- 21.** slovenly \*\*\*\*\* **u.** morally questionable
- 22.** sordid \*\*\*\*\* **v.** caused by disease; abnormal
- 23.** unsavory \*\*\*\*\* **w.** conceited; boastful
- 24.** untoward \*\*\*\*\* **x.** immature; inexperienced

A **prestigious** team, defending champs and **prolific** scorers, we were undefeated. But spending so much time at the **zenith** of our sport, we had become complacent, buying into the **acclaim** dished out in the newspapers. Now we were losing 45–20 at halftime to our crosstown rivals. “If there’s one thing I hate,” the coach said, “it’s a quitter.” Just as coach’s caustic remarks had us fired up, he changed tone, reminding us that a comeback was still **feasible**. Thus, with renewed confidence, we **sallied** forth, determined to wrest control of the game from our rivals.

1. After presenting a business idea that was both \_\_\_\_\_ and profitable, Ashanti acquired the business loan.
2. While today an underdog and crowd favorite, at the \_\_\_\_\_ of his powers, Tiger Woods dominated professional golf.
3. Attending a \_\_\_\_\_ college not only promises an excellent education, but it can provide valuable social connections to those in the most competitive fields.
4. Before the overloaded Eastland could \_\_\_\_\_ out onto Lake Michigan on a pleasure cruise, the ship rolled over at dockside.
5. Picasso was a \_\_\_\_\_ painter, producing hundreds of works during his long career.
6. Casablanca more than lives up to the \_\_\_\_\_ of critics; it’s a timeless masterpiece.

- |                      |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 7. prestigious _____ | a. public recognition          |
| 8. prolific _____    | b. highest point of trajectory |
| 9. zenith _____      | c. to charge; set out          |
| 10. acclaim _____    | d. realistic                   |
| 11. feasible _____   | e. highly regarded; exclusive  |
| 12. sally _____      | f. productive                  |

### ALL GLORY IS FLEETING

As the Bombers took the field for the first game of the series, the young players were **ebullient**, anticipating their success. Jeffries, however, the Bombers’ captain and veteran catcher, was circumspect. Waiting to be announced, he took in the light show of countless camera flashes and the din of 50,000 fans roaring in unison. He dwelled

on how fleeting such moments can be. When the Bombers last won it all, he was a rookie: a **prodigy** with the bat looking ahead to the future of the franchise. He had naively believed the **plaudits** of his adoring fans and had taken reaching the **acme** of his sport for granted. In the ensuing 15 years, he had never been back. Now, at the **pinnacle** of his profession once more, he appreciated all it had taken to reach this moment, how **fortuitous** that he had stayed healthy and played well for long enough to earn this chance.

1. Setting foot on the \_\_\_\_\_ of Mount Everest is widely considered the zenith of mountaineering.
2. Theodore Roosevelt is remembered for his \_\_\_\_\_ smile.
3. At the \_\_\_\_\_ of her career, Marilyn Monroe was considered an icon, more famous for her persona than her achievements.
4. A musical \_\_\_\_\_, Mozart began composing at age five.
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ turn of phrase can be the result of tireless writing practice or a gift of unpredictable inspiration.
6. The effusive \_\_\_\_\_ that marked her introduction left the brilliant historian blushing as she stepped up to the lectern.

- |                |       |                                   |
|----------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 7. ebullient   | _____ | a. highest point; summit          |
| 8. prodigy     | _____ | b. statements of praise           |
| 9. plaudits    | _____ | c. accidentally favorable         |
| 10. acme       | _____ | d. highest level of achievement   |
| 11. pinnacle   | _____ | e. lively; cheerful               |
| 12. fortuitous | _____ | f. person possessing great talent |

### CAUTIOUS OPTIMISM

The polls had been predicting a landslide for weeks, but you'd never know it from the pensive mood at campaign headquarters. Public statements and press interviews were appropriately **sanguine**, but seared into everyone's mind was the gut punch four years ago when the pollsters and pundits had practically **anointed** Gwen Martinez the next governor of North Carolina before a flurry of returns from rural districts put Brad Olsen ahead at the wire. This time around, the party took nothing

for granted. Olsen campaigned as the most **viable** candidate. A platform of policies of known **efficacy** was drafted. A relentless ground game was unleashed upon the state. Only when the TV showed a weary, slump-shouldered Governor Olsen **ascend** the stage did a sense of relief spread through the crowd, followed swiftly by **nirvana**.

1. Bluffing is only a \_\_\_\_\_ poker strategy if you can remain impassive.
2. After the pressure of executing a large wedding, a honeymoon can be a period of blissful \_\_\_\_\_
3. Bronze Age kings were often \_\_\_\_\_ through a ceremony during which oil was poured on their heads.
4. A West Point education will give you an advantage if you wish to \_\_\_\_\_ to a higher rank in the U.S. Army.
5. Despite the onset of gangrene, President Garfield's doctor remained \_\_\_\_\_ that his patient would recover and refused all professional assistance.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of vaccines is embraced by doctors but sometimes doubted by a skeptical public.
7. sanguine \_\_\_\_\_ a. offering a prospect of success
8. anoint \_\_\_\_\_ b. optimistic
9. viable \_\_\_\_\_ c. a carefree and joyous state of mind
10. efficacy \_\_\_\_\_ d. to rise
11. ascend \_\_\_\_\_ e. to proclaim; to sanctify
12. nirvana \_\_\_\_\_ f. effectiveness

### CALL ME BY MY RIGHT NAME

In the **halcyon** days of the Roman Republic, priests spent much of their time interpreting signs in nature to determine which public endeavors were **auspicious**. Luck was not considered a matter of cold probability but a manifestation of the will of the gods. Fortuna, the Roman goddess of luck, was depicted with veiled eyes, a fact that calls to mind the **felicitous** expression that "luck is blind." The lucky were considered more industrious, honest, and pious. The gods tended to reward such **laudable** qualities with **propitious** outcomes in civil life. In war, generals often invoked Alexander the Great's maxim "fortune favors the bold" to justify swift action

and the *burgeoning* of Roman power.

1. Wei's \_\_\_\_\_ network of contacts allowed easy recruitment of new talent.
2. F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald's portraits give the misleading impression of a power couple living a \_\_\_\_\_ existence.
3. Ned Stark embodies \_\_\_\_\_ ideals that become a liability in corrupt times.
4. Antoninus Pius presided over such a \_\_\_\_\_ era that few dramatic events occurred during his reign to attract the attention of historians.
5. McClellan, with his trim good looks and martial bearing, at first seemed a \_\_\_\_\_
6. To be the target of bird droppings is, oddly enough, considered \_\_\_\_\_ by some.

7. halcyon \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** predictive of good fortune
8. auspicious \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** praiseworthy
9. felicitous \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** favorable to success
10. laudable \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to expand
11. propitious \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** happy; well suited
12. burgeon \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** characterized by success and prosperity

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. acclaim \*\*\*\*\* **a.** to rise
2. acme \*\*\*\*\* **b.** happy; well suited
3. anoint \*\*\*\*\* **c.** highest point of trajectory
4. ascend \*\*\*\*\* **d.** favorable to success
5. auspicious \*\*\*\*\* **e.** predictive of good fortune
6. burgeon \*\*\*\*\* **f.** person possessing great talent
7. ebullient \*\*\*\*\* **g.** highly regarded; exclusive
8. efficacy \*\*\*\*\* **h.** characterized by success and prosperity
9. feasible \*\*\*\*\* **i.** to proclaim; to sanctify
10. felicitous \*\*\*\*\* **j.** realistic

11. fortuitous	*****	k. offering a prospect of success
12. halcyon	*****	l. praiseworthy
13. laudable	*****	m. optimistic
14. nirvana	*****	n. effectiveness
15. pinnacle	*****	o. productive
16. plaudits	*****	p. accidentally favorable
17. prestigious	*****	q. lively; cheerful
18. prodigy	*****	r. to charge; set out
19. prolific	*****	s. to expand
20. propitious	*****	t. highest level of achievement
21. sally	*****	u. public recognition
22. sanguine	*****	v. a carefree and joyous state of mind
23. viable	*****	w. statements of praise
24. zenith	*****	x. highest point; summit

### MULLINS, A K.O. VICTIM

In every press conference and interview, K.O. Mullins promised *carnage*. In *ominous* tones, he declared himself the *harbinger* of the champion's downfall, that his foe would be *incapacitated* by stinging jabs and *succumb* to a hail of body blows within five rounds. The result was a pure *debacle*. When the bell sounded, Mullins sprang from his stool and charged across the ring, showing disdain for the champion. Although his belligerence seemed impressive, it failed to intimidate the champ, who laid the hapless Mullins low with an adroit feint and an uppercut.

1. Before Mt. Pelée's catastrophic eruption, many \_\_\_\_\_ signs were observed.
2. The Army of the Potomac lost many hard-fought encounters with the Confederates, but the Battle of Fredericksburg was a true \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Ninety-degree weather in Alaska could be a \_\_\_\_\_ of long-term climate disruption.
4. The 2004 tsunami caused \_\_\_\_\_ on all coasts of the Indian Ocean.

5. When a stroke \_\_\_\_\_ Woodrow Wilson, his wife, Edith, helped him execute the duties of his office.

6. Ruth did not \_\_\_\_\_ to her desire to retaliate against the player who tripped her.

7. carnage \_\_\_\_\_ a. portending doom

8. ominous \_\_\_\_\_ b. to disable

9. harbinger \_\_\_\_\_ c. to give in; to die

10. incapacitate \_\_\_\_\_ d. bloodshed

11. succumb \_\_\_\_\_ e. an abject disaster

12. debacle \_\_\_\_\_ f. a sign of bad luck

### MULLINS THROWS DOWN THE GAUNTLET

His **abortive** challenge for the title proved to be the **nadir** of K.O. Mullins's career. Ignoring the **ramifications** of the loss on his ranking and reputation, the pugnacious Mullins demanded a rematch. To **forestall** any attempt to ignore him, he took out a full-page ad in the newspaper calling out the champ. When the champ's manager saw the ad, he accosted Mullins, who was surrounded by a throng of reporters. The manager belittled his antics as a pathetic attempt to resurrect a **moribund** career. Mullins, never one to **balk** at such barbs, punched the manager, knocking them both off their feet.

1. After the scandal broke, a confession and apology might have \_\_\_\_\_ demands for the prime minister's resignation.

2. Three \_\_\_\_\_ empires did not survive the Great War: the Austrian, Ottoman, and Russian.

3. The investors who \_\_\_\_\_ at the opportunity to purchase shares in the new software company would come to regret it within a decade.

4. When Alaric sacked Rome in 410, it was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the empire's long history.

5. Given the complexity of Earth's natural cycles, the \_\_\_\_\_ of human activities can take decades to reveal themselves.

6. Attempts to create a universal language have proven \_\_\_\_\_ from the

start.

7. abortive \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to head off  
8. nadir \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** consequences  
9. ramifications \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** dying  
10. forestall \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** doomed from the start  
11. moribund \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to hesitate; to refuse  
12. balk \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** the low point of one's fortunes

### MULLINS FORCED TO EAT HUMBLE PIE

The consequences of K.O. Mullins's foolish actions proved to be **catastrophic**. The irate 80-year-old manager pressed charges against Mullins, suing him for assault. Any attempt to deny such a public act was fruitless: dozens of reporters had witnessed the event, and the manager carried a deep laceration over his eyebrow. When the case was brought before the court, the besieged defense team capitulated. The judge castigated Mullins for the sordid incident and repulsed his plea for leniency. In addition to a costly financial settlement, Mullins was required to make a public apology to the octogenarian. The fiasco marked the ignominious end of Mullins's career.

1. Team USA was able to \_\_\_\_\_ every Soviet rush and hold on for a 4–3 win.  
2. Failure to freeze the cookie dough proved a \_\_\_\_\_ error.  
3. During the nine months that Petersburg was \_\_\_\_\_, much of Lee's army deserted.  
4. After the first fall, the rest of the skater's routine turned into a \_\_\_\_\_.  
5. Swatting away the cloud of mosquitoes proved to be a \_\_\_\_\_ endeavor.  
6. Rather than \_\_\_\_\_, Richard III became the last English king to die in battle.

7. catastrophic \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to attack relentlessly  
8. fruitless \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** embarrassing performance  
9. besiege \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** disastrous



10. capitulate \_\_\_\_\_ d. to fend off  
11. repulse \_\_\_\_\_ e. to surrender  
12. fiasco \_\_\_\_\_ f. futile

## THE DECLINE OF MULLINS

After the trial, K.O. Mullins found his bid for a rematch at an *impasse*. He attempted to rebuild his image by hiring a publicist to set up appearances on talk shows during which he would profess to be a “changed man.” In the end, however, this campaign *faltered*, *stymied* by Mullins’s impulsivity and proclivity for misbehavior. Only genuine remorse and meaningful change could have rescued him from his *quandary*. Rather than accepting that his actions had brought about his *plight*, however, Mullins blamed the champ and his old manager. In a frenzy of self-pity, he would often trumpet scurrilous attacks on the champ, the old manager, and the judge, whom he blamed for *thwarting* his dreams.

1. The Joker is always \_\_\_\_\_ in his plans by the timely arrival of Batman.
2. In 1922, a young Hemingway chronicled the \_\_\_\_\_ of Greeks fleeing Anatolia.
3. Cracking the Enigma codes presented Bletchley Park with a \_\_\_\_\_ : how to use the intelligence without tipping off the Germans that they’d been hacked.
4. Dreams
5. Sultan Mehmet II broke the \_\_\_\_\_
6. The gale-force winds \_\_\_\_\_ all attempts to fight the forest fire from the air.

7. impasse \_\_\_\_\_ a. to lose strength; to fail  
8. falter \_\_\_\_\_ b. to defeat another’s plans  
9. stymie \_\_\_\_\_ c. hardship  
10. quandary \_\_\_\_\_ d. stalemate  
11. plight \_\_\_\_\_ e. to block another’s success  
12. thwart \_\_\_\_\_ f. dilemma

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. abortive	***** a. futile
2. balk	***** b. to head off
3. besiege	***** c. dilemma
4. capitulate	***** d. to disable
5. carnage	***** e. to fend off
6. catastrophic	***** f. the low point of one's fortunes
7. debacle	***** g. to defeat another's plans
8. falter	***** h. an abject disaster
9. fiasco	***** i. dying
10. forestall	***** j. portending doom
11. fruitless	***** k. to lose strength; to fail
12. harbinger	***** l. disastrous
13. impasse	***** m. consequences
14. incapacitate	***** n. hardship
15. moribund	***** o. to hesitate; to refuse
16. nadir	***** p. to block another's success
17. ominous	***** q. to give in; to die
18. plight	***** r. stalemate
19. quandary	***** s. embarrassing performance
20. ramifications	***** t. bloodshed
21. repulse	***** u. doomed from the start
22. stymie	***** v. to surrender
23. succumb	***** w. a sign of bad luck
24. thwart	***** x. to attack relentlessly

## CHEATING

Because of my code of ethics, I have always considered the ***duplicity*** of cheating to be dishonorable. Apparently, some students are not above such ***chicanery***.

Recently, I read an article in which, under the ***subterfuge*** of learning disabilities that they did not possess, a group of friends visited unscrupulous learning specialists whose recommendations gain them extra time to take exams. By ***duping*** the system,

these students gain an unfair advantage over others while abusing accommodations reserved for those who honestly need them. Another **perfidious** scheme involves students **absconding** with their phones to the bathroom to look up answers to test questions.

1. Lies and \_\_\_\_\_ are necessary skills for successful espionage.
2. The perpetrator of the Ponzi Scheme \_\_\_\_\_ with a sizable stash of his clients' investments but was recognized abroad and apprehended.
3. While the workmanship might fool the untrained eye, a \$50 price tag for a Rolex isn't going to \_\_\_\_\_
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of bogus medicine, once the purview of nineteenth-century snake oil salesmen, has made a resurgence thanks to cheap online advertising.
5. Honesty will get you out of some speeding tickets; \_\_\_\_\_ will always increase the fines.
6. The queen was so pathologically \_\_\_\_\_ that none in the North expected the reinforcements she had promised to materialize.

7. duplicity \_\_\_\_\_ a. to trick
8. chicanery \_\_\_\_\_ b. to sneak away
9. subterfuge \_\_\_\_\_ c. falseness of character
10. dupe \_\_\_\_\_ d. faithless to one's word
11. perfidious \_\_\_\_\_ e. scheming; trickery
12. abscond \_\_\_\_\_ f. trick to gain advantage

### CRACKING DOWN

Mr. Dorsey, our new principal, was determined to do something about the rash of **mendacious** academic behavior. He issued bulletins and began to admonish those teachers who did not proctor alertly. Though they did not appreciate the responsibility **foisted** upon them, under **duress** the faculty reported the worst **cabals** of habitual cheaters. Though their possessors claimed that they were **fabricated**, several cheat sheets were turned in as tangible evidence of the offense. Mr. Dorsey's inexorable campaign against academic **charlatans** seemed to be paying off.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ of aristocrats initiated the assassination plot against Julius Caesar.
2. Confessions given under \_\_\_\_\_ are rarely admissible in court.
3. Because the criminals did not \_\_\_\_\_ their stories together, questioning them separately quickly brought out the truth.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ story repeated enough can become nearly impossible to debunk.
5. It is a historical irony that most people will reject a democracy \_\_\_\_\_ upon them.
6. Always a \_\_\_\_\_, the con man became a magician using tricks to entertain.
7. mendacious \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to lie; to make up
8. foist \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** trickster
9. duress \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** a secret group
10. cabal \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to place an unwelcome burden
11. fabricate \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** characterized by dishonesty
12. charlatan \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** force or threats to obtain compliance

### STAR PLAYER IS CAUGHT

The cheating scandal came to a head when Art Krause, our football captain, was caught cheating on a midterm exam. An all-conference quarterback, Art was used to **fawning** fans, **fulsome** press clippings, and a certain leniency from his teachers. His ghostwritten term papers were explained away by the **artifice** of having a “writing tutor.” Art was happy to **usurp** the grades that other students worked hard to earn. With such an attitude, it’s unsurprising he would put little **guile** into his cheating and was easily caught by the first teacher to keep an eye on him. If Art were suspended, however, our chances for winning the city championship would evaporate, so the coach asked the principal to overlook Art’s **prevarication**. Mr. Dorsey replied that the players “needed coaching in morality.”

1. Dillinger’s \_\_\_\_\_, rather than his capacity for violence, made him Public Enemy #1 for federal law enforcement.

2. Since he had been caught on film, no amount of \_\_\_\_\_ could explain his actions.
3. By collecting funds for the army, Bismarck \_\_\_\_\_ the power of Parliament.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ manner of the sycophant repulses true leaders.
5. Returning to play an encore after a prolonged ovation is an \_\_\_\_\_ lovingly enacted by musicians and audiences alike.
6. Queen Margaret warns the Yorkist nobles that Richard's \_\_\_\_\_ often precedes his most egregious crimes.

7. fawning \_\_\_\_\_ a. to seize unlawfully or by force
8. fulsome \_\_\_\_\_ b. dishonest or evasive statements
9. artifice \_\_\_\_\_ c. excessive flattery
10. usurp \_\_\_\_\_ d. cleverness; trickery
11. guile \_\_\_\_\_ e. a lie of convenience
12. prevarication \_\_\_\_\_ f. obnoxious through excessive praise

### OUR PYRRHIC VICTORY

Mr. Dorsey summoned a group of teachers and student leaders to his office under the **guise** of gauging their reactions to the suspension. One teacher suggested that rather than “punishing the whole school for one student’s transgression,” the suspension should be delayed. Mr. Dorsey, however, would not indulge such **fallacious** wishful thinking. He countered that **feinting** discipline would make a **canard** of the school’s zero-tolerance policy. He loathed having to discipline Art Krause so severely, but all excuses for the quarterback’s activity were completely **factitious**. Unless strict measures were taken, other students would regard the school’s honor code as toothless. “We may lose a football game,” the principal said, “but we can salvage our self-respect.” After the principal’s diatribe, all present **repressed** any further dissent.

1. The normally stoic Jeter could not \_\_\_\_\_ his emotions before leaving the field in uniform for the last time.
2. The famed frontier politician never denied the \_\_\_\_\_ that he’d killed a

notorious outlaw in a duel.

3. Such was Janine's charm that interviewers never seemed to notice the \_\_\_\_\_

4. The Parthians were known for \_\_\_\_\_ a mounted retreat before turning in the saddle to fire a fusillade of arrows at their pursuers.

5. The Supreme Court prefers not to reverse precedents unless the justices find the reasoning of the predecessors to be particularly \_\_\_\_\_ .

6. Dictators maintain the \_\_\_\_\_ of popular support by holding rigged elections.

7. guise \_\_\_\_\_ a. to make a deceptive move

8. fallacious \_\_\_\_\_ b. an unproven lie or rumor

9. feint \_\_\_\_\_ c. to hold back opinions or emotions

10. canard \_\_\_\_\_ d. surface appearance

11. factitious \_\_\_\_\_ e. based on faulty reasoning

12. repress \_\_\_\_\_ f. artificially created

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. abscond \*\*\*\*\* a. excessive flattery

2. artifice \*\*\*\*\* b. dishonest or evasive statements

3. cabal \*\*\*\*\* c. to hold back opinions or emotions

4. canard \*\*\*\*\* d. characterized by dishonesty

5. charlatan \*\*\*\*\* e. a secret group

6. chicanery \*\*\*\*\* f. based on faulty reasoning

7. dupe \*\*\*\*\* g. to sneak away

8. duplicity \*\*\*\*\* h. faithless to one's word

9. duress \*\*\*\*\* i. surface appearance

10. fabricate \*\*\*\*\* j. to seize unlawfully or by force

11. factitious \*\*\*\*\* k. trick to gain advantage

12. fallacious \*\*\*\*\* l. force or threats to obtain compliance

13. fawning \*\*\*\*\* m. cleverness; trickery

14. feint \*\*\*\*\* n. to trick

15. foist	***** o. artificially created
16. fulsome	***** p. to make a deceptive move
17. guile	***** q. to lie; to make up
18. guise	***** r. obnoxious through excessive praise
19. mendacious	***** s. scheming; trickery
20. perfidious	***** t. to place an unwelcome burden
21. prevarication	***** u. falseness of character
22. repress	***** v. a lie of convenience
23. subterfuge	***** w. trickster
24. usurp	***** x. an unproven lie or rumor

### KEEP IT SIMPLE

Most inventors, although motivated by *mercenary* interests, recognize that the key to success is identifying an unmet need in the lives of potential customers. While a *surfeit* of unusual and ultimately useless products are out there, the most *lucrative* inventions are those that possess a simplicity that makes their utility obvious. During the nineteenth century, a *glut* of overelaborate electronic communication devices failed to catch on until Samuel Morse created a very simple code made of nothing more than simple pulses of energy. Devices that are simple, reliable, and of obvious value like the telegraph are most likely to be *underwritten* by investors and reap the *pecuniary* rewards of a grateful public.

1. The most \_\_\_\_\_ government contracts attract the fiercest bidding.
2. The team owner gave the coach one more season to improve but made it clear that he would no longer \_\_\_\_\_ failure.
3. Despite her excellent work, Ellen's superiors felt she lacked commitment to the company vision and was a purely \_\_\_\_\_ worker.
4. Fracking has produced a prolonged \_\_\_\_\_ in the natural gas markets, and prices have yet to recover.
5. Despite his reputation with free market capitalists as a \_\_\_\_\_ wizard, J. P. Morgan was known in his day for ruthlessly throttling destructive competition.
6. The Covid-19 pandemic has made it clear that a \_\_\_\_\_ of medical supplies should be maintained at all times.

7. mercenary \_\_\_\_\_ a. an oversupply  
8. surfeit \_\_\_\_\_ b. related to money or finances  
9. lucrative \_\_\_\_\_ c. motivated solely by money  
10. glut \_\_\_\_\_ d. an abundance  
11. underwrite \_\_\_\_\_ e. profitable  
12. pecuniary \_\_\_\_\_ f. to accept financial responsibility

## GOLD IN THE HILLS

A **hoard** of jewels and gold coins worth more than \$2 million could be hiding in the Rocky Mountains. It sounds like an Old West legend, but it's very much a twenty-first-century story. In 2010, Forrest Fenn, an **affluent** art dealer from New Mexico, announced that he had hidden a chest filled with **copious** riches somewhere in the Rockies. He published the "treasure map" in his autobiography, a poem containing clues to the casket's whereabouts. He explained that his **largess** was intended to inspire people. Be it by adventure or **avarice**, the Fenn treasure has certainly motivated legions of hunters. Most were **compensated** for their lost time in exercise and fresh air, but an unlucky few have actually died from mishaps in the wilderness.<sup>1</sup> Sample Sentences: Use the clues above to help find the proper words.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of wealthy benefactors provides considerable support for the arts.
2. The greatest entertainers in the world command levels of \_\_\_\_\_ unimaginable even a century ago.
3. Seed banks are \_\_\_\_\_ of biological treasure meant to secure our survival in the event of a global catastrophe.
4. Despite the anonymity of a uniform, officers born \_\_\_\_\_ can often be distinguished by their speech and mannerisms.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ fruit from this year's tomatoes allowed me to give many away.
6. Kaiser Wilhelm II erroneously believed Britain too motivated by \_\_\_\_\_ to go to war to protect Belgian neutrality.

7. hoard \_\_\_\_\_ a. generosity



8. affluent \_\_\_\_\_ b. in great quantity  
9. copious \_\_\_\_\_ c. payment  
10. largess \_\_\_\_\_ d. having a significant amount of money  
11. avarice \_\_\_\_\_ e. a valuable collection  
12. compensation \_\_\_\_\_ f. greed

## RENAISSANCE RESEARCHERS

Many of the first scientists were what we would consider today to be amateurs. Some were independently wealthy and pursued what they termed “natural philosophy” from the comfort of their **sumptuous** palaces and mansions. The work they did was simply to indulge their own curiosity and not with any thought of **remuneration**. Brilliant scholars born without means, on the other hand, could hope for a church **sinecure**, a much-**coveted** arrangement, which provided income without responsibility so that they could pursue their scientific inquiries at their leisure. The less fortunate would work enough to meet their **fiscal** needs while conducting research in whatever time they could spare. Prior to the Scientific Revolution, the only truly paid research work was that which benefited European militaries, which **voraciously** consumed innovations that could be used against rival powers in times of war.

1. Corrupt politicians often offer \_\_\_\_\_ to their most generous supporters.
2. Sound \_\_\_\_\_ policy rests on the principle of keeping debt low unless government spending is needed to stave off recession.
3. The Palace of Versailles was intended to be a \_\_\_\_\_ cage allowing the French King to keep a close eye on his nobility.
4. Donald Trump is known to be a \_\_\_\_\_ consumer of cable television.
5. Native Americans rarely received the \_\_\_\_\_ for their land promised by treaties.
6. It is one thing to admire those we find heroic but quite another to \_\_\_\_\_ the wealth and status that others have earned through talent and hard work.
7. sumptuous \_\_\_\_\_ a. a paid position without duties
8. remuneration \_\_\_\_\_ b. characterized by great luxury

9. sinecure \_\_\_\_\_ c. relating to finance  
10. covet \_\_\_\_\_ d. having great appetite  
11. fiscal \_\_\_\_\_ e. compensation; reward  
12. voracious \_\_\_\_\_ f. to desire immorally; to envy

### IS GREED GOOD?

Without a doubt, the profit motive is one of the most powerful creative engines that exists. The **cupidity** of entrepreneurs can bring the dreams of inventors to life if both parties recognize the value a new idea can provide. During the Gilded Age, Andrew Carnegie was pillar of a **bountiful** economy featuring countless innovations that made use of the cheaper and more reliable steel his mills created. Certainly, tycoons like Carnegie lived in **opulence**, constructing **palatial** estates along Manhattan's Fifth Avenue and Long Island's "Gold Coast." They were also **munificent** benefactors of public institutions like the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Carnegie Hall. While there are exceptions—**rapacious** speculators like Jay Gould, who could wreck economies—history teaches that on the balance, the drive for wealth and success benefits society if leavened by social conscience.

1. Some of the most \_\_\_\_\_ homes are bequeathed as parks and museums.
2. The motivation of past amateur athletes was love of the game rather than mere
3. Eighteenth century pirates were so \_\_\_\_\_ that they would seize ships regardless of flag.
4. Rome's burgeoning empire relied on \_\_\_\_\_ Egyptian grain harvests.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Venice is astonishing to those who have never seen Byzantine art.
6. "Golden Parachutes" are \_\_\_\_\_ severance packages for business executives whose failures have too often cost shareholders billions.

7. cupidity \_\_\_\_\_ a. extremely generous  
8. bountiful \_\_\_\_\_ b. fitting for royalty  
9. opulence \_\_\_\_\_ c. eagerness to possess something  
10. palatial \_\_\_\_\_ d. overly greedy; willing to take by force  
11. munificent \_\_\_\_\_ e. plentiful; abundant

12. rapacious \_\_\_\_\_ f. impressive wealth

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. affluent      | ***** a. compensation; reward                    |
| 2. avarice       | ***** b. plentiful; abundant                     |
| 3. bountiful     | ***** c. payment                                 |
| 4. compensation  | ***** d. characterized by great luxury           |
| 5. copious       | ***** e. motivated solely by money               |
| 6. covet         | ***** f. having great appetite                   |
| 7. cupidity      | ***** g. greed                                   |
| 8. fiscal        | ***** h. in great quantity                       |
| 9. glut          | ***** i. profitable                              |
| 10. hoard        | ***** j. impressive wealth                       |
| 11. largess      | ***** k. to accept financial responsibility      |
| 12. lucrative    | ***** l. a paid position without duties          |
| 13. mercenary    | ***** m. generosity                              |
| 14. munificent   | ***** n. extremely generous                      |
| 15. opulence     | ***** o. to desire immorally; to envy            |
| 16. palatial     | ***** p. having a significant amount of money    |
| 17. pecuniary    | ***** q. an oversupply                           |
| 18. rapacious    | ***** r. an abundance                            |
| 19. remuneration | ***** s. fitting for royalty                     |
| 20. sinecure     | ***** t. a valuable collection                   |
| 21. sumptuous    | ***** u. relating to finance                     |
| 22. surfeit      | ***** v. related to money or finances            |
| 23. underwrite   | ***** w. eagerness to possess something          |
| 24. voracious    | ***** x. overly greedy; willing to take by force |

## THE CRASHING TWENTIES

The Roaring Twenties was a time **bereft** of caution. Everyday Americans played the market on credit, paying only a **pittance** up front. One morning in 1929, the

investor Bernard Baruch got a stock tip from his shoeshine boy. Recognizing in this that the stock boom had become a bubble, he sold off his shares just before the market collapsed in a welter of panicked selling. Millionaire speculators became **insolvent**. Banks faced **liquidation** of their assets in a **futile** attempt to recover their depositors' money. The savings of millions of Americans were wiped out. Within months credit froze, businesses shuttered, and jobs evaporated, leaving average Americans facing **destitution**.

1. After a \_\_\_\_\_ effort to stop the inferno, the crew abandoned the Morro Castle.
  2. Savvy buyers frequent \_\_\_\_\_ sales to get steep discounts.
  3. \_\_\_\_\_ of wise counsel, the queen consented to the destruction of the rebel city.
  4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Paris slums and the countryside radicalized the French peasantry that took charge of the revolution in 1792.
  5. The seizure of his bank accounts left the fugitive embezzler \_\_\_\_\_ .
  6. While in prison, convicted felons are paid a \_\_\_\_\_ for their work.
- 
7. bereft \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** abject poverty
  8. pittance \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** unable to pay one's debts
  9. insolvent \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** useless
  10. liquidation \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** selling of assets (often to pay debts)
  11. futile \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to be completely without something
  12. destitution \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** a trivial sum of money

### BREAD LINES

By 1933, one in four American workers was unemployed and many were soon **penniless**. Entire manufacturing districts in once-thriving cities were now silent and **barren**. With entire professions out of work, there was a dearth of well-paying jobs and too many supplicants for each. These conditions left many workers reliant on alms to support the meager existence of themselves and their children. Soon lengthy bread lines formed to provide sustenance to the poor.

1. No Man's Land was a particularly bleak and \_\_\_\_\_ landscape.
2. Those seeking \_\_\_\_\_ in the medieval town lined up on the cobblestone bridge.
3. Ebenezer Scrooge's dinner of cold gruel was quite \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Faced with a \_\_\_\_\_ of public support, the candidate dropped out.
5. To seek favor of a tyrant, a \_\_\_\_\_ had best resort to flattery.
6. For those in serious debt, to be literally \_\_\_\_\_ would be an improvement.

- |                |       |   |
|----------------|-------|---|
| 7. penniless   | _____ | <b>a.</b> deficient in quantity or quality    |
| 8. barren      | _____ | <b>b.</b> a scarcity                          |
| 9. dearth      | _____ | <b>c.</b> charity for the poor                |
| 10. supplicant | _____ | <b>d.</b> lacking any money                   |
| 11. alms       | _____ | <b>e.</b> unproductive; devoid of improvement |
| 12. meager     | _____ | <b>f.</b> one seeking assistance              |

## HOOVERVILLE

One of the most **piteous** sights during the Great Depression was the sudden appearance of shanty towns known as Hoovervilles, after the sitting president, Herbert Hoover. Since many of the newly **indigent** in America were now also homeless, accommodations in public shelters soon became **scanty**. Many of America's **paupers** possessed building skills and began constructing shelters on public lands. One such community in New York's Central Park was constructed from driftwood from the Hudson River. This example in particular shows how **privation** can encourage resourcefulness but also how widespread **penury** had become in the working classes.

1. From Prince to \_\_\_\_\_ : The Fall of a Tycoon
2. Does \_\_\_\_\_ Set Students Up for Success?
3. Information About Suspect Still \_\_\_\_\_
4. Donated Suits and Showers Help the \_\_\_\_\_ Get Work
5. Once Great Hotel Now in \_\_\_\_\_ Condition
6. Lack of Health Insurance Drives Many to \_\_\_\_\_

7. piteous \_\_\_\_\_ a. the condition of being needy  
8. indigent \_\_\_\_\_ b. the condition of doing without  
9. scanty \_\_\_\_\_ c. extreme poverty  
10. pauper \_\_\_\_\_ d. evoking sympathy  
11. privation \_\_\_\_\_ e. insufficient in quantity or quality  
12. penury \_\_\_\_\_ f. a very poor person

## DUST BOWL

The **abjection** of the Great Depression was not limited to cities. Farmers had been suffering ever since the collapse of agricultural pricing that followed World War I. At the same time, small farmers faced mortgage rates that were little better than **extortion**. As the Depression worsened, a **parsimonious** president and his cabinet of **miserly** millionaires were not inclined to offer much relief. To make matters worse, decades of short-sighted farming practices had allowed much of the topsoil in the Midwest to erode away, creating a barren landscape of windswept fields festooned with clouds of dust. With a **paucity** of options left to them, many farmers abandoned their land in their automobiles to join the **mendicants** in the Hoovervilles on the West Coast.

1. Thriftiness is a virtue but those who act in a \_\_\_\_\_ manner are pathologically greedy or cheap.
2. The of quality programming on any one television channel may stem from
3. Odysseus appeared as a
4. The line between persuasion and \_\_\_\_\_ is crossed when threats come into play.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the town became certain when the last factory closed.
6. His \_\_\_\_\_ gift-giving matched his harsh manner of speaking with family.

7. abjection \_\_\_\_\_ a. a short supply  
8. extortion \_\_\_\_\_ b. beggar  
9. parsimonious \_\_\_\_\_ c. characterized by cheapness  
10. miserly \_\_\_\_\_ d. the worst degree of a bad situation

- 11.** paucity \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to act in a stingy manner  
**12.** mendicant \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** obtaining money or cooperation by threat

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- 1.** abjection \*\*\*\*\* **a.** unproductive; devoid of improvement  
**2.** alms \*\*\*\*\* **b.** abject poverty  
**3.** barren \*\*\*\*\* **c.** deficient in quantity or quality  
**4.** bereft \*\*\*\*\* **d.** insufficient in quantity or quality  
**5.** dearth \*\*\*\*\* **e.** to act in a stingy manner  
**6.** destitution \*\*\*\*\* **f.** to be completely without something  
**7.** extortion \*\*\*\*\* **g.** the condition of being needy  
**8.** futile \*\*\*\*\* **h.** beggar  
**9.** indigent \*\*\*\*\* **i.** extreme poverty  
**10.** insolvent \*\*\*\*\* **j.** evoking sympathy  
**11.** liquidation \*\*\*\*\* **k.** unable to pay one's debts  
**12.** meager \*\*\*\*\* **l.** a very poor person  
**13.** mendicant \*\*\*\*\* **m.** the worst degree of a bad situation  
**14.** miserly \*\*\*\*\* **n.** one seeking assistance  
**15.** parsimonious \*\*\*\*\* **o.** characterized by cheapness  
**16.** paucity \*\*\*\*\* **p.** charity for the poor  
**17.** pauper \*\*\*\*\* **q.** a trivial sum of money  
**18.** penniless \*\*\*\*\* **r.** a short supply  
**19.** penury \*\*\*\*\* **s.** selling of assets (often to pay debts)  
**20.** piteous \*\*\*\*\* **t.** a scarcity  
**21.** pittance \*\*\*\*\* **u.** obtaining money or cooperation by threat  
**22.** privation \*\*\*\*\* **v.** lacking any money  
**23.** scanty \*\*\*\*\* **w.** useless  
**24.** supplicant \*\*\*\*\* **x.** the condition of doing without

## ENTER DR. THOMAS A. DOOLEY

In 1956, *Look Magazine* named Thomas Dooley as one of the year's ten most

outstanding men. A **neophyte** just under 30 years of age at the time, Dr. Dooley had already distinguished himself by caring for a half-million sick and emaciated Vietnamese refugees. When fighting broke out in the divided country of Vietnam, the northern communist Viet Minh forces surged southward, scattering thousands of refugees before them. The **fledgling** doctor was a lieutenant during the **incipient** war, chafing at the **indolence** of his position at a tranquil naval hospital in Japan. With the **impetuous** confidence of youth, he volunteered for duty on a navy ship that had been chosen to transport the refugees to sanctuary in Saigon. The curtain was beginning to ascend on Dooley's **nascent** career.

1. Lee's decisions are sometimes regarded as \_\_\_\_\_ by critics who fail to see that the general took the initiative as a way to offset his inferior numbers.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ rebellion must be put down before it spreads.
3. As a \_\_\_\_\_, Thomas Becket had fresh eyes and was able to recognize King Henry's attempts to seize control over the church.
4. The Battle of Britain served as a major test of the \_\_\_\_\_ coalition government.
5. That Jefferson was chosen to write the Declaration of Independence at such a young age clearly showed the promise of his \_\_\_\_\_ public career.
6. A life of \_\_\_\_\_ does little to prepare one for emergencies.

7. impetuous \_\_\_\_\_ a. at an early stage
8. nascent \_\_\_\_\_ b. idleness
9. neophyte \_\_\_\_\_ c. rash; showing little forethought
10. fledgling \_\_\_\_\_ d. a newcomer
11. indolence \_\_\_\_\_ e. showing early promise of potential
12. incipient \_\_\_\_\_ f. untested and new

### DOOLEY'S MISSION

Aboard the refugee ship, Dooley's destiny took shape. His initial **ingenuous** outlook was quickly dispelled by the level of disease, ignorance, and fear that afflicted the passengers. He discerned that compared with the communists, Americans had been **dabblers** in the propaganda battle: the assumption that American ideals would



naturally prevail with the Vietnamese he saw to be hopelessly **quixotic** given the steady drumbeat of Anti-American rhetoric on the ground. Looking to do his part, Dooley chose **artless** but tangible action over **utopian** sentiment as the best way to win over the Vietnamese. Thus, he pitched in to build shelters in Haiphong and to comfort the residents in the besieged city. For his services, Dooley received the U.S. Navy's Legion of Merit. He told the story of his transformation from **juvenile** idealist to seasoned activist in ***Deliver Us from Evil***, a bestseller that alerted America to the plight of the Vietnamese and what Dooley saw as the sinister intentions of Communism.

1. The Prince was known to be a \_\_\_\_\_ in his official duties, preferring to spend his time in luxury.
2. His \_\_\_\_\_ behavior betrayed the fact that favoritism, and not merit, had led to the young executive's elevation.
3. The abbot's \_\_\_\_\_ manner of speaking concealed a shrewd nature.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ communities arise periodically but fail when their ideas of human perfectibility ring hollow.
5. Her \_\_\_\_\_ nature convinced the jury that her answers were truthful.
6. While the Hague Conferences to end war were admirable efforts, they ultimately proved

7. ingenuous \_\_\_\_\_ a. lacking trickery
8. dabbler \_\_\_\_\_ b. immature
9. quixotic \_\_\_\_\_ c. based on an ideal of perfectibility
10. artless \_\_\_\_\_ d. innocent; authentic
11. utopian \_\_\_\_\_ e. a disinterested amateur
12. juvenile \_\_\_\_\_ f. overly idealistic

### STYMIED BY PERSONAL SICKNESS

After an extensive lecture tour in 1956, Dr. Dooley, the once **jejune** activist and now **scion** of anticommunism, returned to Laos to set up a mobile medical unit. Because the Geneva Agreement barred the entrance of military personnel to the country, he resigned from the Navy and went to work as a civilian. That story is told in ***The Edge***

**of Tomorrow.** The next year, despite a growing illness, the ubiquitous Dooley turned up in the remote village of Muong Sing, attempting to thwart his traditional enemies —disease, dirt, ignorance, and starvation. He still maintained the increasingly **fatuous** hope of halting the spread of Communism. More optimist than **puerile** dreamer, he failed to recognize the deteriorating situation in the region. But his trained medical eye soon told him that the pain in his chest and back was a harbinger of a malignant cancer. Recognizing that a **dilatory** attitude toward his condition be **imprudent**, he sought treatment.

1. Churchill was a renowned soldier, writer, and \_\_\_\_\_ of a noble family.
  2. Max’s attempts to impress his older cousins only made him look \_\_\_\_\_ .
  3. The \_\_\_\_\_ effort to halt the forest fire was woefully inadequate.
  4. The critic, while noting the young actor’s potential, found his performance to be both \_\_\_\_\_
  5. It would be \_\_\_\_\_ to question your supervisor in front of the whole team.
  6. With the expression, “Let them eat cake,” Marie Antoinette revealed her \_\_\_\_\_
- 
- |               |       |                         |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 7. jejune     | _____ | a. boyish               |
| 8. scion      | _____ | b. unserious            |
| 9. fatuous    | _____ | c. late; unhurried      |
| 10. puerile   | _____ | d. young; inexperienced |
| 11. dilatory  | _____ | e. unwise               |
| 12. imprudent | _____ | f. son; rising star     |

### BAD IS BAD

Ever since **tyro** pop sensation Ellipsis broke upon the music scene, critics and fans alike have noted his proclivity for flamboyant dress and **infantile** behavior. His “...” clothing line is noted for the heavy use of fringe and rhinestones, and a court recently denied his petition to change his name to the punctuation mark. Ellipsis’s career began with the debut album **Profound**, which music guru Jai Delacroix described as “the kind of **pretentious** tripe middle schoolers write in notebooks.” Certainly, tracks like “Let My Love Be Your Lily Pad,” laden with **mawkish** sentimentality

aren't exactly Shakespearean. Yet the catchiness of Ellipsis's songs is undeniable, and they have only grown in popularity with increased air play. He also has a certain **sophomoric** charisma, as can be seen in the video for "Gondola Girl," which depicts the singer on a boat in Venice serenading the object of his affection with a ukulele. Despite the **maudlin** lyrics ("you stole a piazza my heart (!)") the lovesick star wins over his girl with mischievous smiles and silly stunts (like falling into the canal after his attempt to do a jig on a gondola goes wrong).

1. Capote struck an intense, yet casual pose for the portrait on the jacket of his first novel that many considered \_\_\_\_\_, if not obscene.
2. My mother can become \_\_\_\_\_ when reminiscing about the past.
3. Hacking the Harvard home page on a dare was a \_\_\_\_\_ thing to do.
4. When thwarted, many dictators are prone to \_\_\_\_\_ protests, even tantrums.
5. I prefer my own words to the \_\_\_\_\_ clichés of most greeting cards.
6. Hannibal and Alexander the Great showed that some military \_\_\_\_\_ are still great strategists.

- |                |       |                                     |
|----------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 7. tyro        | _____ | a. attempting to appear significant |
| 8. infantile   | _____ | b. excessively sentimental          |
| 9. pretentious | _____ | c. sentimental in a sickly way      |
| 10. mawkish    | _____ | d. exhibiting talent but immaturity |
| 11. sophomoric | _____ | e. babyish                          |
| 12. maudlin    | _____ | f. a newcomer                       |

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |              |       |                                     |
|--------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. artless   | ***** | a. a disinterested amateur          |
| 2. dabbler   | ***** | b. immature                         |
| 3. dilatory  | ***** | c. innocent; authentic              |
| 4. fatuous   | ***** | d. exhibiting talent but immaturity |
| 5. fledgling | ***** | e. unserious                        |
| 6. impetuous | ***** | f. untested and new                 |

7. imprudent	***** g. babyish
8. incipient	***** h. a newcomer (1)
9. indolent	***** i. young; inexperienced
10. infantile	***** j. attempting to appear significant
11. ingenuous	***** k. son; rising star
12. jejune	***** l. based on an ideal of perfectibility
13. juvenile	***** m. overly idealistic
14. maudlin	***** n. idleness
15. mawkish	***** o. excessively sentimental
16. nascent	***** p. rash; showing little forethought
17. neophyte	***** q. showing early promise of potential
18. pretentious	***** r. sentimental in a sickly way
19. puerile	***** s. boyish
20. quixotic	***** t. at an early stage
21. scion	***** u. a newcomer (2)
22. sophomoric	***** v. lacking trickery
23. tyro	***** w. unwise
24. utopian	***** x. late; unhurried

### JUST SPELL THE NAME CORRECTLY

P. T. Barnum, the **eminent** circus impresario, was once confronted by a woman who showed him a scurrilous manuscript about himself and said that unless he paid her, she would have the book printed. Barnum, an inveterate showman, rejected the extortion attempt. "Say what you please," he replied, "but make sure that you mention me in some way. Then come to me, and I will estimate the value of your services as a publicity agent." The seasoned Barnum obviously felt that adverse criticism was an asset for one who perennially seeks fame. Inured against insult, he believed a man who seeks the limelight should not care what is written about him but should be concerned only when they stop writing about him. Barnum's philosophy suggests that we might do well to review the plethora of publicity given to bigoted curmudgeons.

1. Hitler was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ liar who Chamberlain never should have trusted.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ promotor brought headline acts to communities across the country.
3. DiCaprio was a \_\_\_\_\_ favorite for Best Actor, but it took several attempts to win the Oscar.
4. Harris's work as a prosecutor had \_\_\_\_\_ her against the abuse of politics.
5. Every neighborhood has one \_\_\_\_\_ who views everyone with suspicion.
6. A truly \_\_\_\_\_ baseball manager knows when to make a change and when to do nothing.

7. eminent \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** skillful through experience
8. inveterate \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** highly regarded
9. seasoned \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** a disagreeable person
10. perennial \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** hardened through use
11. inured \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** habitual
12. curmudgeon \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** continually recurring

### THE RISE OF THE ECHO CHAMBER

The advent of the Internet seemed to represent an era of greater truth with the power to disseminate information now at the fingertips of average people. Gone are the days when **erudite** journalists clustered in major cities shaped the narratives of the news cycle. The air of superiority of such distant and **urbane** sophists, after all, had long alienated many in rural areas. Consequently, the formerly **revered** edifice of mainstream media quickly became **enfeebled** by the proliferation of websites offering news in real time. However, unlike the **prosaic** neutrality of established media outlets, the contributors to these sites view events through one political perspective. The **sage** elders of the past, like Walter Cronkite, have given way to angry and frequently bigoted pundits who spurn impartiality. Lacking access to alternative points of view, twenty-first-century Americans have increasingly gathered into like-minded tribes.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ Voltaire had refined his philosophies in the salons of Paris.

2. Though \_\_\_\_\_ by old age, Thomas Jefferson helped design the layout of the University of Virginia.
3. Some scholars spend their lives in books, becoming \_\_\_\_\_ though not wise.
4. A common moral precept is to \_\_\_\_\_ one's parents.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ advice is most often heeded by those who ask for it.
6. A consummate adventurer, Theodore Roosevelt could not endure the \_\_\_\_\_

7. erudite \_\_\_\_\_ a. commonplace; ordinary
8. urbane \_\_\_\_\_ b. deeply respect; admire
9. revere \_\_\_\_\_ c. wise
10. enfeebled \_\_\_\_\_ d. learned; well-read
11. prosaic \_\_\_\_\_ e. sophisticated; suave
12. sage \_\_\_\_\_ f. weakened

### CRAZY UNCLES

The crazy uncle is a **venerable** trope of American comedy. Part **patriarch** and part curmudgeon, he is a deliberate throwback to bygone days that are imagined to have been simpler and more innocent. His manner of speech and dress are invariably **unaffected** as he has nothing but contempt for newfangled ways. He reserves particular scorn for urbane, well-educated, and politically correct younger men who serve as both his foil and nemesis. The pairing of a **decrepit** crazy uncle with a condescending idealist has often made for pure comedy gold. The sparring between Archie Bunker and his liberal son-in-law "Meathead" is perhaps the most famous example. Of course, the dark side of **trite** situation comedy is that the crazy uncle, by virtue of his craziness, has the fool's ability to openly speak his mind without fear or shame. The Archie Bunkers of this world, both real and imagined, revel in this indulgence, spouting off **archaic**, often bigoted opinions. The costars roll their eyes, the audience laughs, and racism is quietly perpetuated.

1. Through a child's eyes, I did not see how Grandpa's charming cabin was actually rather
2. Great politicians seem folksy in an \_\_\_\_\_ way, a skill few can master.

3. A \_\_\_\_\_ movie is one where the entire plot is discernible from the trailer.
4. Vito, the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Corleone family, commands both fear and admiration.
5. There's a huge difference between adherence to the text of the Constitution and a slavish devotion to centuries-old and frequently \_\_\_\_\_ common law.
6. The athletic director, recognizing the fans' devotion to the \_\_\_\_\_ old coach, kept him on long past the point when he could be truly effective.

7. venerable \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** natural; authentic
8. patriarch \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** overly done; unoriginal
9. unaffected \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** respected and admired
10. decrepit \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** ancient; old-fashioned
11. trite \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** broken-down; decayed
12. archaic \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** male elder

### THE BAD OLD DAYS

There's nothing new about curmudgeons bemoaning the loss of public virtue. Whether a **doddering** bigot or a kindly grandmother, it's natural for the elderly to miss the period of their lives when their bodies were strong, beautiful, and blessedly free of infirmity. Such a **pedestrian** explanation does not fully explain human nostalgia, however. Our minds have a way of editing memory so that our fleeting successes become **immutable** triumphs. Meanwhile, the **stagnant** swaths of time that make up much of everyday life are forgotten because they are simply not memorable, and our failures are little more than **recondite** footnotes because remembering them causes pain. The same distortion occurs when we recall the world in which we grew up. While the music and fashion of the 1950s may be **passé**, that decade is often recalled as an American golden age. What is often forgotten, however, is that while America may have been a superpower, it could not halt the spread of Communism. Fear of nuclear war saw American schoolchildren hiding under their desks and their parents building bomb shelters. Thousands of intellectuals, suspected of communist sympathies, saw their careers cut short. Meanwhile, horrors like the mass murder of the Clutter family (memorialized by Capote's **In Cold Blood**) made

for lurid front- page news.

1. Bill Belichick's knowledge of \_\_\_\_\_ football rules has enabled his team to play the game in novel ways.
2. Eliminating sources of \_\_\_\_\_ water helps prevent the spread of mosquitoes.
3. His \_\_\_\_\_ manner did not save the former Nazi from trial for his crimes.
4. Nothing is more damaging to a social media company than becoming \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. For the paparazzi, no celebrity errand is too \_\_\_\_\_ to not merit a photograph.
6. While they may appear to be \_\_\_\_\_ , the stars do eventually fade out or explode.

7. doddering \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** unchanging
8. pedestrian \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** out of date
9. immutable \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** sluggish; at a standstill
10. stagnant \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** obscure; not well known
11. recondite \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** mundane; commonplace
12. passé \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** unsteady; feeble

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. eminent \*\*\*\*\* **a.** sluggish; at a standstill
2. inveterate \*\*\*\*\* **b.** obscure; not well known
3. seasoned \*\*\*\*\* **c.** wise
4. perennial \*\*\*\*\* **d.** highly regarded
5. inured \*\*\*\*\* **e.** ancient; old-fashioned
6. curmudgeon \*\*\*\*\* **f.** male elder
7. erudite \*\*\*\*\* **g.** commonplace, ordinary
8. urbane \*\*\*\*\* **h.** unchanging
9. revere \*\*\*\*\* **i.** recurring
10. enfeebled \*\*\*\*\* **j.** sophisticated; suave



11. prosaic	***** k. habitual
12. sage	***** l. mundane; commonplace
13. venerable	***** m. skillful through experience
14. patriarch	***** n. overly done; unoriginal
15. unaffected	***** o. learned; well-read
16. decrepit	***** p. unsteady; feeble
17. trite	***** q. weakened
18. archaic	***** r. natural; authentic
19. doddering	***** s. hardened through use
20. pedestrian	***** t. respected and admired
21. immutable	***** u. a disagreeable person
22. stagnant	***** v. broken-down; decayed
23. recondite	***** w. deeply respect; admire
24. passé	***** x. out of date

### JERRY HART'S SIXTH SENSE

An *insidious* feeling had made Jerry Hart miserable all day long. It was difficult to explain, but the similar sensations in the past had been accurate —something *heinous* was about to occur. Just as some people can predict the onset of inclement weather because of a *pernicious* aching in their bones, so could Jerry detect incipient disaster. He sat at his desk, trying to peruse a company report, but his efforts were ineffectual. The *repugnant* gnawing at his insides, the tinge of uneasiness, the premonition of calamity that besieged him would not desist. When the phone rang, he *recoiled* with fear—it was his wife and she was hysterical. Something *grotesque* had happened: their son had been bitten by a mad dog!

1. Although Belle initially \_\_\_\_\_ from the Beast, she comes to recognize his kind nature.
2. Comments sections are often rife with \_\_\_\_\_ statements.
3. Picasso's portraits are often \_\_\_\_\_ and breathtaking at the same time.
4. Many believe the death penalty is warranted for the most \_\_\_\_\_ criminals.

5. Iago's words over the first few acts have an \_\_\_\_\_ effect on Othello's psyche.

6. Slavery had a \_\_\_\_\_ influence on the growth of the fledgling United States.

7. insidious \_\_\_\_\_ a. to pull back; to flinch

8. heinous \_\_\_\_\_ b. secretly causing harm

9. pernicious \_\_\_\_\_ c. ugly, sometimes in an amusing way

10. repugnant \_\_\_\_\_ d. distasteful

11. recoil \_\_\_\_\_ e. having a slow, destructive effect

12. grotesque \_\_\_\_\_ f. extremely wicked

### CRISIS!

Jerry Hart got the pertinent facts from his wife; **appalled**, he dashed out of the office on his way home. Normally a polite, unassuming man with a deep aversion to rudeness of any kind, he jostled people in the hallway, implored the elevator operator to hurry, and with flagrant disregard for a mortified elderly gentleman, jumped into the cab he had hailed. The 20-minute taxi ride seemed interminable, and all the while abhorrent thoughts occurred to Jerry. Visions of a malevolent hound with foaming jaws obsessed him. A crowd of people had gathered in front of his house so that in a state of utmost trepidation, Jerry had to force his way through them. Little Bobby was on his bed, surrounded by a doctor, a police officer, Jerry's doleful wife, his two daughters, and a half-dozen wan neighbors.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ speech drew widespread condemnation.

2. A sly smile hid the general's \_\_\_\_\_ nature.

3. Jeanie's mother was \_\_\_\_\_ at having to pick her up at the police station.

4. The delegates were \_\_\_\_\_ by the king's proclamation of rebellion.

5. All \_\_\_\_\_ vanished once the race began.

6. My \_\_\_\_\_ to cheesecake often raises eyebrows at parties.

7. appalled \_\_\_\_\_ a. outraged; deeply embarrassed

8. aversion \_\_\_\_\_ b. evil

9. mortified \_\_\_\_\_ c. fearful anticipation  
10. abhorrent \_\_\_\_\_ d. shocked  
11. malevolent \_\_\_\_\_ e. deep dislike  
12. trepidation \_\_\_\_\_ f. disgusting; hateful

### A TIME FOR DECISION

The doctor explained the situation calmly but avoiding any *unctuous* attempt to sound overly optimistic. They didn't know whether the dog had rabies but had been unable to find him so far. The doctor had a strong antipathy for taking unnecessary risks and advised that Bobby undergo the admittedly odious vaccination daily for two weeks. Mrs. Hart concurred; she said that a neighbor who had seen the dog had been repulsed by its appearance. She claimed that it had been foaming at the mouth, barking, and growling constantly. But the policeman interjected that there hadn't been a case of a mad dog in the county in over 20 years and advocated that they do nothing for at least another day. Dramatic action was anathema to Jerry Hart's even-keeled nature, and he was inclined to agree. It was far from an acrimonious discussion, but given the stakes Mr. and Mrs. Hart had to think about their next step.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ manner of the sports agent repelled prospective clients.
2. When compromise becomes politically \_\_\_\_\_ to the electorate, gridlock results.
3. Debate in Congress was never more \_\_\_\_\_ than in the days prior to Civil War.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Hitler and Stalin felt for one another made their pact shocking.
5. The Minute Men \_\_\_\_\_ numerous Redcoat attacks at the Battle of Bunker Hill.
6. Laying off workers is the most \_\_\_\_\_ task of a manager.

7. unctuous \_\_\_\_\_ a. very unpleasant  
8. antipathy \_\_\_\_\_ b. bitter  
9. odious \_\_\_\_\_ c. something one bitterly opposes  
10. repulse \_\_\_\_\_ d. flattering in an off-putting way

11. anathema \_\_\_\_\_ e. to repel

12. acrimonious \_\_\_\_\_ f. hatred

## THE PERTINENT FACTS ABOUT RABIES

“Give me some of the basic information about the disease, Doc,” said Jerry, glancing toward the figure of his son. The doctor, who *loathed* this part of his job, took a breath: “Well, it was once one of the most *reviled* of all diseases. It was called ‘hydrophobia,’ meaning fear of water, because one of the symptoms is an inability to swallow liquids. It is caused when the virus from the saliva of an infected animal gets into a bite wound. The virus travels along the nerves to the spine and brain.” “What are the symptoms?” asked Mrs. Hart. “Pain, numbness, difficulty swallowing, headaches, muscle spasms, and convulsions.” “And what is the treatment for rabies?” Jerry asked. “Two shots in the abdomen every day for two weeks.” Mrs. Hart, like any mother, was *loath* to subject her son to such gruesome regiment. Sensing her *internecine* emotions, the doctor added, “While it is the *antithesis* of the bedside manner I prefer, I feel it my duty to say that once symptoms appear, death is almost inevitable. Before vaccination, people who contracted rabies were chained up before going mad and left to die a *noisome*, agonizing death.” “I think we should go ahead with the injections,” the distraught Mrs. Hart said. “I’ve heard enough.”

1. \_\_\_\_\_ to admit defeat, the Cougars fought on though effectively beaten.
2. After Carthage fell, only \_\_\_\_\_ class struggle weakened Ancient Rome.
3. The ointment, while \_\_\_\_\_, does help greatly with rashes.
4. Aaron Burr, who rarely discussed political theory, was the \_\_\_\_\_ of the other Founding Fathers.
5. Because Tybalt \_\_\_\_\_ him, Romeo had little chance to avoid a fight.
6. The fan who interfered with the team’s win was so \_\_\_\_\_ that he moved away within a year.

7. loathe \_\_\_\_\_ a. destructive internal struggle

8. revile \_\_\_\_\_ b. harmful; foul smelling

9. loath \_\_\_\_\_ c. to despise

10. internecine \_\_\_\_\_ d. reluctant

- 11.** antithesis \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to repudiate; to insult  
**12.** noisome \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** opposite belief

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- 1.** abhorrent \*\*\*\*\* **a.** very unpleasant  
**2.** acrimonious \*\*\*\*\* **b.** opposite belief  
**3.** anathema \*\*\*\*\* **c.** deep dislike  
**4.** antipathy \*\*\*\*\* **d.** bitter  
**5.** antithesis \*\*\*\*\* **e.** harmful; foul smelling  
**6.** appalled \*\*\*\*\* **f.** fearful anticipation  
**7.** aversion \*\*\*\*\* **g.** to repel  
**8.** grotesque \*\*\*\*\* **h.** destructive internal struggle  
**9.** heinous \*\*\*\*\* **i.** evil  
**10.** insidious \*\*\*\*\* **j.** to despise  
**11.** internecine \*\*\*\*\* **k.** hatred  
**12.** loath \*\*\*\*\* **l.** something one bitterly opposes  
**13.** loathe \*\*\*\*\* **m.** secretly causing harm  
**14.** malevolent \*\*\*\*\* **n.** to repudiate  
**15.** mortified \*\*\*\*\* **o.** ugly, sometimes in an amusing way  
**16.** noisome \*\*\*\*\* **p.** reluctant  
**17.** odious \*\*\*\*\* **q.** having a slow, destructive effect  
**18.** pernicious \*\*\*\*\* **r.** distasteful  
**19.** recoil \*\*\*\*\* **s.** extremely wicked  
**20.** repugnant \*\*\*\*\* **t.** shocked  
**21.** repulse \*\*\*\*\* **u.** to pull back; to flinch  
**22.** revile \*\*\*\*\* **v.** disgusting; hateful  
**23.** trepidation \*\*\*\*\* **w.** outraged; deeply embarrassed  
**24.** unctuous \*\*\*\*\* **x.** flattering in an off-putting way

## THE SEARCH FOR THE DOG (CONTINUED)

Meanwhile, the Harts had notified the local radio stations to broadcast an appeal for

the dog's owner to come forward. The general public was **enthralled**, and the station was soon inundated with phone calls, but all leads were fruitless. The only eyewitness to the event was Bobby. Naturally, the attack made a **vivid** impression. More from fear than any desire to **embellish**, the boy's story veered into **hyperbole**. In the most **florid** language a six-year-old can muster, he described a gray beast that was taller than him with foam dripping from razor-sharp fangs. All the police could glean from this was that the dog was gray and **adorned** with a metal collar. Despite the lack of tangible evidence, however, the police remained sanguine.

1. The use of \_\_\_\_\_ for emphasis is one of the most common rhetorical strategies of persuasion.
2. Every street in Munich was \_\_\_\_\_ with garlands of hops for Oktoberfest.
3. The secret of Van Gogh's \_\_\_\_\_ paintings was the great master's use of complementary colors in pairs.
4. Marc Antony's \_\_\_\_\_ funeral oration turned the masses against Caesar's assassins.
5. Lawyers and judges do not take kindly to witnesses who \_\_\_\_\_ their stories.
6. Hemingway's prose is famously lacking in \_\_\_\_\_ description.

- |                |       |  |
|----------------|-------|--|
| 7. enthralling | _____ | a. to decorate                             |
| 8. vivid       | _____ | b. to add detail; to exaggerate            |
| 9. embellish   | _____ | c. complex and full of detail              |
| 10. hyperbole  | _____ | d. fascinating; demanding attention        |
| 11. florid     | _____ | e. lifelike; vibrant                       |
| 12. adorn      | _____ | f. extreme statements, not meant literally |

## NO RELIEF

The normally phlegmatic Jerry Hart had become the **archetype** of the grieving father. Twenty-four hours had passed under the **pall** of a horrific disease. This would be enough to drive most parents to **histrionics**, but Jerry was determined to see his son receive the vaccine. At the suggestion of some friends, he organized a **panoply** of friends and neighbors to fan out around the supermarket. They knocked on every

door, inspected every dog, and came back empty-handed. Although the Harts were sick with worry (they had to be coerced into going to sleep), little Bobby seemed to be in great spirits. The **excruciating** vigil continued without **deliverance**.

1. It's amazing how \_\_\_\_\_ a hangnail can be.
  2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of warships at Queen Victoria's royal review in 1897 was stunning.
  3. Lear's Fool has become the \_\_\_\_\_ of the character who can say truth to power.
  4. Though the forest fires were far away, a \_\_\_\_\_ of smoke hung over town.
  5. The \_\_\_\_\_ behavior of a demagogue's acolytes should not be mistaken for popular support.
  6. The paratroopers asserted that they didn't need \_\_\_\_\_ by ground forces.
- 
7. archetype \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** overly dramatic
  8. pall \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** an impressive assembly
  9. histrionic \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** causing great pain
  10. panoply \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** a dark cloud
  11. excruciating \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** relief
  12. deliverance \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** a stereotypical example

### THE POLICE FIND THE DOG

Forty hours of police work and the publicity brought the Hart's tragedy to a **climactic** end. Their **rhetoric** had garnered widespread response. By meticulously checking the registrations of every red station wagon in the neighborhood and then cross-checking dog licenses, the police narrowed the search to four owners. After a few calls, the owner was located. She brought her muzzled German shepherd to the Hart domicile. With a **flamboyant** squeal, Bobby identified the dog, and the animal was taken to a veterinarian to have the necessary tests performed. The owner, Mrs. McGraw, at first defended her dog's behavior. **Entranced**, she listened as the police warned her of the severity of the incident. Without further **pageantry**, she admitted that the dog had a sporadic mean streak. In **grandiloquent** terms, she scoffed at the idea of rabies. Jerry Hart noticed for the first time in two days that his uneasy

feeling had departed.

1. The passion of some fascists can have an \_\_\_\_\_ effect on angry citizens.
2. Career criminals tend to avoid \_\_\_\_\_ displays of wealth.
3. Pickett's Charge was the \_\_\_\_\_ moment of the Battle of Gettysburg.
4. The guest speaker's \_\_\_\_\_ introduction actually embarrassed her.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a royal wedding is a breathtaking spectacle.
6. Whether the new president's actions will match his \_\_\_\_\_ remains to be seen.

- |                   |       |                                 |
|-------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| 7. climactic      | _____ | a. elaborate manner of speaking |
| 8. rhetoric       | _____ | b. ostentatious display         |
| 9. flamboyant     | _____ | c. mesmerizing                  |
| 10. entrancing    | _____ | d. final; conclusive            |
| 11. pageantry     | _____ | e. showy                        |
| 12. grandiloquent | _____ | f. speech                       |

### ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

The Harts were greatly relieved by the **resolution** to this crisis, learning that the conjecture about the dog was not true. Because of the **salient** fact that the German shepherd was not rabid, the necessity for the painful treatment was obviated. The police gave the dog's owner a summons for allowing the animal to go unmuzzled. Her **sanctimonious** attitude certainly did not endear her to the authorities, but her eventual cooperation proved to be an **extenuating** circumstance that ensured her penalty was not worse. Little Bobby was treated to a **rousing** compensation for his ordeal: an ice cream sundae and a movie. Following the happy **denouement**, the neighbors searched for other lurid happenings, and Jerry Hart went back to his office. "What kind of dog was that?" his secretary asked. "Oh, his bark was worse than his bite," quipped Jerry.

1. After his \_\_\_\_\_ keynote speech in 2004, Barack Obama's stature increased.
2. The detectives found few \_\_\_\_\_ clues at the crime scene.



3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the international crisis by arbitration was a win for peace.
4. The judge determined that no \_\_\_\_\_ facts can excuse murder.
5. Pundits that adopt a \_\_\_\_\_ manner often attract more viewers.
6. Authors often include an epilogue to their novels to provide a satisfactory \_\_\_\_\_

7. resolution \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** offsetting; excusing
8. salient \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** final settlement
9. sanctimonious \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** acting morally superior
10. extenuating \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** obvious
11. rousing \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** inspiring
12. denouement \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** completion

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. adorn \*\*\*\*\* **a.** extreme statements, not meant literally
2. archetype \*\*\*\*\* **b.** offsetting; excusing
3. climactic \*\*\*\*\* **c.** completion
4. deliverance \*\*\*\*\* **d.** speech
5. denouement \*\*\*\*\* **e.** causing great pain
6. embellish \*\*\*\*\* **f.** obvious
7. enthralling \*\*\*\*\* **g.** elaborate manner of speaking
8. entrancing \*\*\*\*\* **h.** a stereotypical example
9. excruciating \*\*\*\*\* **i.** complex and full of detail
10. extenuating \*\*\*\*\* **j.** inspiring
11. flamboyant \*\*\*\*\* **k.** to decorate
12. florid \*\*\*\*\* **l.** acting morally superior
13. grandiloquent \*\*\*\*\* **m.** fascinating; demanding attention
14. histrionic \*\*\*\*\* **n.** lifelike; vibrant
15. hyperbole \*\*\*\*\* **o.** mesmerizing
16. pageantry \*\*\*\*\* **p.** a dark cloud
17. pall \*\*\*\*\* **q.** ostentatious display

- |                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| <b>18.</b> panoply       | ***** <b>r.</b> an impressive assembly       |
| <b>19.</b> resolution    | ***** <b>s.</b> showy                        |
| <b>20.</b> rhetoric      | ***** <b>t.</b> to add detail; to exaggerate |
| <b>21.</b> rousing       | ***** <b>u.</b> final settlement             |
| <b>22.</b> salient       | ***** <b>v.</b> relief                       |
| <b>23.</b> sanctimonious | ***** <b>w.</b> final; conclusive            |
| <b>24.</b> vivid         | ***** <b>x.</b> overly dramatic              |

## OFF BROADWAY

When Monte Ziltch told his boss, Mr. Foy, that, despite his *aptitude* for the work, he was quitting as an accountant to become an actor, the man was convulsed with laughter. After Mr. Foy realized that Monte was serious, the normally *savvy* manager launched into a diatribe on the importance of responsibility in the younger generation. Monte confessed that he had chosen his profession for its *utilitarian* reputation and that he had been developing ulcers as an accountant. *Aptly* enough, an opportunity to get into show business had arisen, requiring Monte to make an immediate decision. Monte said he considered himself a *versatile* individual and had always harbored a secret ambition to try his hand in the performing arts. Mr. Foy stormed out of the office, muttering incoherently about the *chimerical* nature of millennials.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ investors see economic downturns as an opportunity to buy.
2. Children are known for \_\_\_\_\_ observations that adults are too polite to make.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ musician Trent Reznor plays several different instruments.
4. Joel is talented but possesses a \_\_\_\_\_ nature, refusing to commit to any vocation.
5. Ana found that her \_\_\_\_\_ with multiple languages was one of her greatest assets.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ but dependable cars like the Civic and Outback have loyal followings.

7. aptitude \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** idealistic; flaky
8. savvy \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** flexible; multitalented

9. utilitarian \_\_\_\_\_ c. useful  
10. apt \_\_\_\_\_ d. shrewd; wise  
11. versatile \_\_\_\_\_ e. ability  
12. chimerical \_\_\_\_\_ f. appropriate; well chosen

### AN ALL-AROUND MAN

The need for a decision came about when a local theater *impresario* invited an *obliging* Monte to join his prestigious summer stock company. His position as “apprentice” would require him to be *agile*. He would have to take tickets; paint scenery; prepare placards; assist with lighting, costumes, and props; and carry an occasional spear in a walk-on role. Since the company would stage five major plays during the summer, there was a chance that if Monte proved *adept* in the execution of his duties, he might actually get a part before too many weeks had elapsed. In addition, he would increase his acting *acumen* by attending the drama classes that were an integral part of the summer theater. The remuneration would be nominal, but at last Monte Ziltch would be able fulfill his life-long ambition to become a *proficient* actor.

1. Despite great speed, an Olympic sprinter is often less \_\_\_\_\_ than a soccer player.
  2. An \_\_\_\_\_ prosecutor, Kamala Harris was well prepared for her debates.
  3. Celebrities who are \_\_\_\_\_ toward fans are often the most popular.
  4. P. T. Barnum came to define the modern circus \_\_\_\_\_ .
  5. My father’s culinary \_\_\_\_\_ always surprised my friends.
  6. Most switch hitters are more \_\_\_\_\_ from one side of the plate.
7. impresario \_\_\_\_\_ a. able to move or adapt easily  
8. obliging \_\_\_\_\_ b. ability; knowledge  
9. agile \_\_\_\_\_ c. accomplished  
10. adept \_\_\_\_\_ d. helpful; kind  
11. acumen \_\_\_\_\_ e. organizer of entertainment  
12. proficient \_\_\_\_\_ f. skillful

## FROM LEDGERS TO SCRIPTS

During the first weeks of the summer, Monte Ziltch didn't have time to wonder if he had made a mistake typical of **precocious** youth. He had become a **lithe** stagehand, performing a thousand and one odd jobs around the theater. First there was the opening production of **A Chorus Line**, then two weeks of **The Fantasticks**, followed by **The Diary of Anne Frank**, which did excellent business. All through those weeks, Monte painted, carried, nailed, collected, and ran with **dexterity**. He observed his fellow players, **emulating** their techniques. He had expunged all traces of debits and credits from his mind and had become an **aficionado** of the theater. His impromptu career change was proving an **apposite** adjustment to his circumstances.

1. Touch typing with speed and \_\_\_\_\_ is a function of practice.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ physique of the lead dancer belied her strength.
3. An \_\_\_\_\_ is more than expert: such a person shows true passion for a pursuit.
4. One habit of those who become successful is to \_\_\_\_\_ those who have made it.
5. Be it a war or moon landing, Cronkite's words were \_\_\_\_\_ to every occasion.
6. Veteran teachers often struggle with their most \_\_\_\_\_ students.
7. precocious \_\_\_\_\_ a. skillfulness
8. lithe \_\_\_\_\_ b. advanced for one's age
9. dexterity \_\_\_\_\_ c. appropriate to a situation
10. emulate \_\_\_\_\_ d. flexible; graceful
11. aficionado \_\_\_\_\_ e. to copy; to surpass
12. apposite \_\_\_\_\_ f. an enthusiastic fan or expert

## IRONY FOR MERRYWEATHER

Monte found himself a more **protean** individual than he ever expected and so, when at last, his chance to perform came, he handled it with **aplomb**. He had played the timorous Lion in **The Wizard of Oz**. Now there was an open audition to cast the

final show of the season. It was to be a postmodern comedy written by a **maverick** playwright and given a summer tryout prior to a Broadway opening. Monte, who by now had adopted the stage name of Monte Merryweather, read for the producers, hoping to get the part of the hero's fractious landlord. Though he **adroitly** delivered his performance, the competition was too tough—but the director, a **connoisseur** of budding talent, assigned Monte to a less ostentatious part. It seems that fate, the **arbiter** of all outcomes, has a sense of humor and so for the first two weeks in September, the stage-struck accountant had a two-minute, two-line part. What was his role? The hero's accountant!

1. Paul Ryan possessed remarkable \_\_\_\_\_ for such a young speaker.
2. Metternich was the most \_\_\_\_\_ diplomat of the early nineteenth century.
3. A wine \_\_\_\_\_ knows the best brands and vintages for every occasion.
4. Scott Weiland was known as much for his \_\_\_\_\_ appearance as his vocal skill.
5. Scientific
6. A Supreme Court justice is an

- |                 |       |                          |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------------|
| 7. protean      | _____ | a. judge; decision maker |
| 8. aplomb       | _____ | b. graceful              |
| 9. maverick     | _____ | c. changeable            |
| 10. adroit      | _____ | d. independent person    |
| 11. connoisseur | _____ | e. grace; poise          |
| 12. arbiter     | _____ | f. expert                |

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |               |       |                               |
|---------------|-------|-------------------------------|
| 1. acumen     | ***** | a. independent person         |
| 2. adept      | ***** | b. advanced for one's age     |
| 3. adroit     | ***** | c. judge; decision maker      |
| 4. aficionado | ***** | d. organizer of entertainment |
| 5. agile      | ***** | e. flexible; multitalented    |
| 6. aplomb     | ***** | f. expert                     |

7. apposite	***** g. skillfulness
8. apt	***** h. idealistic; flaky
9. aptitude	***** i. appropriate to a situation
10. arbiter	***** j. shrewd; wise
11. chimerical	***** k. to copy; to surpass
12. connoisseur	***** l. able to move or adapt easily
13. dexterity	***** m. accomplished
14. emulate	***** n. skillful
15. impresario	***** o. graceful
16. lithe	***** p. grace; poise
17. maverick	***** q. ability; knowledge
18. obliging	***** r. changeable
19. precocious	***** s. appropriate; well chosen
20. proficient	***** t. helpful; kind
21. protean	***** u. ability
22. savvy	***** v. flexible; graceful
23. utilitarian	***** w. useful
24. versatile	***** x. an enthusiastic fan or expert

## A VISIT TO THE PRESIDENT

In the winter of 1941, Enrico Fermi and a number of other distinguished scientists lent their voices to an effort to **induce** President Franklin Roosevelt to authorize an all-out effort in atomic energy research. The scientists had been **incited** by incontrovertible evidence of surreptitious German experiments. The Italian-born Fermi was the ideal man to lead the atomic research. Already in 1938, he had won the Nobel Prize for work with radioactive elements and neutron bombardment. Fermi had found a haven from Fascist **reactionaries**, and he knew that if the Germans were the first to develop an atomic bomb, it would be **tantamount** to world dominance for Hitler. Fermi's intent was to **preclude** such a calamity. The international race for atomic supremacy began **forthwith**.

1. Today's loss \_\_\_\_\_ any chance at a playoff berth.

2. Revolution and reform nearly always spark \_\_\_\_\_ movements.
3. The Prince declared that Romeo is banished \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. While free speech is protected, \_\_\_\_\_ a riot is not.
5. Not receiving a response to a job application is \_\_\_\_\_ to rejection.
6. By 42 weeks of pregnancy, most obstetricians will \_\_\_\_\_ labor.

7. induce \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to avoid or make unnecessary
8. incite \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** equivalent to
9. reactionary \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** to persuade; to bring about
10. tantamount \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** immediately
11. preclude \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to encourage; to stir up
12. forthwith \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** opposed to new ideas or reform

### WEAPON TAKES SHAPE

Enrico Fermi designed a device that could **eventuate** in a fission reaction. It consisted of chunks of uranium that emitted neutrons between layers of graphite that slowed them down. Holes were left for long cadmium safety rods. The basic **premise** of the device was simple: withdrawing the control rods acted as a **catalyst** for the production of neutrons that could split uranium atoms. When the rods were withdrawn to a critical point, then the neutrons would be produced so fast that they could not be absorbed. In that manner, a self-**perpetuating** “chain reaction” would result. In a nuclear weapon, the **culmination** of this process would be a cataclysmic explosion. Fermi’s device could also be the **precursor** of a new power generation system. Slowly, the first atomic pile began to grow in a subterranean room at Columbia University.

1. The fall of Petersburg proved the \_\_\_\_\_ of Grant’s eastern campaign.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a one-ring scam is that the unsuspecting will return missed calls.
3. Diligent preparation often \_\_\_\_\_ fortuitous outcomes.
4. Abolitionism proved a \_\_\_\_\_ for an organized women’s suffrage movement.
5. The telegraph was the humble \_\_\_\_\_ of modern telecommunications.

6. Social media companies must work to stop misinformation from \_\_\_\_\_ online.

7. eventuate \_\_\_\_\_ a. an agent that spurs a change or reaction

8. premise \_\_\_\_\_ b. to keep something going

9. catalyst \_\_\_\_\_ c. a forerunner

10. perpetuate \_\_\_\_\_ d. climax; highest point

11. culmination \_\_\_\_\_ e. to result in

12. precursor \_\_\_\_\_

### THE SQUASH COURT EXPERIMENT

As the pile neared completion, Fermi moved the project to an abandoned squash court at the University of Chicago. The possibility that the Germans were close to **consummating** their own project **fomented** considerable anxiety—there was no **contingency** plan for losing the race. At last, six weeks after the project had been **engendered**, critical mass was achieved. Three brave assistants ascended the pile, ready with liquid cadmium if anything **inadvertently** went wrong. Almost fifty scientists and incredulous observers mounted a balcony to watch. One physicist remained on the floor to extract the final cadmium control rod. Unbearable tension permeated the atmosphere; one physicist described the experiment as **analogous** to “tickling a dragon’s tail.” Fermi completed his calculations, took a deep breath, and then gave the signal.

1. Failure in business often results from the \_\_\_\_\_ managers fail to see.

2. The actor was discovered \_\_\_\_\_ when she accompanied a friend to an audition.

3. For \_\_\_\_\_ rebellion, the Founding Fathers faced execution.

4. Honest mistakes by baseball players like Buckner and Snodgrass have frequently

5. Governor DeWitt Clinton pouring water from Lake Erie into New York Harbor marked the

6. The competition of nature can be viewed as \_\_\_\_\_ to that of the marketplace.



7. consummation \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to bring about  
8. foment \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** logically similar  
9. contingency \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** unintentional  
10. engender \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to stir up a negative reaction  
11. inadvertent \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** unpredictable result or situation  
12. analogous \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** completion; joining

## THE ITALIAN NAVIGATOR LANDS

It worked! Enrico Fermi's calculations **extrapolated** perfectly into reality as the team had successfully brought about a chain reaction. After 28 minutes, Fermi gave the signal to replace the control rod. The significance of the moment **obviated** any explanation and **precipitated** a tremendous cheer from the normally reserved scientists. Some of the men, however, remarked soberly that the breakthrough would prove an **antecedent** to much darker discoveries; Fermi's work would be the **substrate** upon which nuclear weapons research would build. For this reason, the achievement could not be widely **promulgated** within the scientific community. On December 2, 1942, the news of Fermi's achievement was relayed in a cryptic telephone message to Washington:

1. Beware of \_\_\_\_\_ grand theories from small samples of data.
2. Cratons are the hard, ancient \_\_\_\_\_ underlying the continents.
3. The results of today's games have \_\_\_\_\_ any tie-breaking matches.
4. The day's riots \_\_\_\_\_ a dramatic change in the attitudes of the lawmakers.
5. The Articles of Confederation are the \_\_\_\_\_ of the U.S. Constitution.
6. Hitler widely \_\_\_\_\_ his intention to seize German lands lost by treaty.

7. extrapolate \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** underlying layer  
8. obviate \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** to announce; to declare  
9. precipitate \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** something that comes before  
10. antecedent \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** remove the need for something  
11. substrate \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** extend a principle in a new way

**12.** promulgate \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** to cause or accelerate

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>1.</b> analogous    | ***** <b>a.</b> to result in                             |
| <b>2.</b> antecedent   | ***** <b>b.</b> to cause or accelerate                   |
| <b>3.</b> catalyst     | ***** <b>c.</b> unintentional                            |
| <b>4.</b> consummation | ***** <b>d.</b> remove the need for something            |
| <b>5.</b> contingency  | ***** <b>e.</b> underlying layer                         |
| <b>6.</b> culmination  | ***** <b>f.</b> a forerunner                             |
| <b>7.</b> engender     | ***** <b>g.</b> to bring about                           |
| <b>8.</b> eventuate    | ***** <b>h.</b> immediately                              |
| <b>9.</b> extrapolate  | ***** <b>i.</b> climax; highest point                    |
| <b>10.</b> foment      | ***** <b>j.</b> an agent that spurs a change or reaction |
| <b>11.</b> forthwith   | ***** <b>k.</b> to avoid or make unnecessary             |
| <b>12.</b> inadvertent | ***** <b>l.</b> completion; joining                      |
| <b>13.</b> incite      | ***** <b>m.</b> to encourage; to stir up                 |
| <b>14.</b> induce      | ***** <b>n.</b> to stir up a negative reaction           |
| <b>15.</b> obviate     | ***** <b>o.</b> to announce; to declare                  |
| <b>16.</b> perpetuate  | ***** <b>p.</b> opposed to new ideas or reform           |
| <b>17.</b> precipitate | ***** <b>q.</b> something that comes before              |
| <b>18.</b> preclude    | ***** <b>r.</b> logically similar                        |
| <b>19.</b> precursor   | ***** <b>s.</b> to persuade; to bring about              |
| <b>20.</b> premise     | ***** <b>t.</b> to keep something going                  |
| <b>21.</b> promulgate  | ***** <b>u.</b> equivalent                               |
| <b>22.</b> reactionary | ***** <b>v.</b> extend a principle in a new way          |
| <b>23.</b> substrate   | ***** <b>w.</b> principle upon which an idea is based    |
| <b>24.</b> tantamount  | ***** <b>x.</b> unpredictable result or situation        |

## SUNDAY MORNING AT PEARL HARBOR

At breakfast time on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, Dorie Miller was serving coffee aboard the seemingly *indomitable* battleship West Virginia. Dorie was

African American, and the highest job to which an **intrepid** African-American sailor could aspire to in the U.S. Navy at the time was that of messman. While Dorie was technically a member of an **imperious** fighting fleet, he was not expected to fight. Due to the **intransigence** of racism in American culture at the time, most Army and Navy officers inveighed against African Americans as fighting men. While he took such overt prejudice as an **affront**, Dorie Miller apparently accepted being relegated to the role of a mess hall servant and did his job with **poise**. Now, as he poured the coffee, Dorie was wondering why the airplanes above were making so much noise on a peaceful Sunday morning.

1. The Montagues and Capulets are tragically punished for their \_\_\_\_\_ .
  2. Harding's \_\_\_\_\_ gaze belied his timid and retiring nature.
  3. The \_\_\_\_\_ little terrier stood its ground against the larger hound.
  4. The Franco-Prussian war started over an exaggerated diplomatic \_\_\_\_\_ .
  5. A group of \_\_\_\_\_ Rangers scaled the Normandy cliffs under German fire.
  6. Hemingway described heroism as \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of death and loss.
- 
7. indomitable \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** offensive act
  8. intrepid \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** stubbornness; refusal to back down
  9. imperious \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** daring; enterprising
  10. intransigence \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** unable to be intimidated or defeated
  11. affront \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** calm and dignified manner
  12. poise \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** arrogant; fierce

### THE INFAMOUS ATTACK

The coffee cups suddenly went spinning as an explosion knocked Dorie Miller flat on his back. Jumping up from his supine position, the **stalwart** messman from Waco, Texas, headed for the deck. Everywhere that Dorie looked, he saw smoke and once-**formidable** warships lying on their sides. Overhead, dozens of Japanese dive bombers controlled the skies without a U.S. plane to repulse their **brazen** attack. There was no time to decry the **effrontery** of the surprise attack as the Japanese pilots had the **temerity** to make pass after pass, strafing the survivors. Without

hesitating, Dorie joined a team that was feeding ammunition to a machine gunner. Unfortunately, the torpedo planes were **undaunted** by this ineffectual attempt to protect their battleship.

1. The President's aide castigated the blackmailer for his \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. A great hockey team needs \_\_\_\_\_ defenders to protect its ace scorers.
3. Dr. Shih recognized at once the challenge the \_\_\_\_\_ new virus posed.
4. Boss Tweed attracted condemnation not because he was corrupt but because he was so \_\_\_\_\_
5. A great fighter pilot needs intuition and quick reflexes, not \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. Nadia Comaneci was completely \_\_\_\_\_ by pressure, earning the first perfect scores in the history of Olympic gymnastics.

7. stalwart \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** bold
8. formidable \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** carelessness
9. brazen \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** durable; powerfully built
10. effrontery \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** unfazed by adversity
11. temerity \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** insolence; disrespect
12. undaunted \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** impressively powerful or tough

### THE HEROISM OF DORIE MILLER

Men all around Miller were succumbing to the **obdurate** spray of Japanese bullets. Showing incredible **audacity**, Miller dragged his captain to safety and turned back to see that the machine-gunner had been killed. The **stolid** messman took the big gun and trained it on the incoming bombers. Within the space of ten minutes, he was credited with destroying four bombers while dodging the bullets of their fighter escorts. After demonstrating their **braggadocio** and striking a **brash** but effective blow, the Japanese flew back to their carrier fleet. Amidst the dead bodies and the ruined fleet were the heroes such as Dorie Miller. The Navy had doubted and tried to discourage him, but he hadn't listened. Now Dorie's **recalcitrance** served as a potent example for a nation thrust into the largest conflict in human history.

1. The grim, \_\_\_\_\_ face of Joe Torre betrayed neither hope nor despair.

2. After Hannibal's crushing victories, anyone but the \_\_\_\_\_ Romans would have sued for peace.
3. Some \_\_\_\_\_ is always expected at the beginning of any football game.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ young congresswoman was determined to show her district's contempt for Washington deal-making.
5. Napoleon's speed and \_\_\_\_\_ allowed the French to choose the battlefield.
6. Whole neighborhoods could not be saved from the \_\_\_\_\_ flow of lava.

7. obdurate \_\_\_\_\_ a. boldness; decisiveness
8. audacity \_\_\_\_\_ b. unwilling to change
9. stolid \_\_\_\_\_ c. display of courage or arrogance
10. braggadocio \_\_\_\_\_ d. defiant; uncooperative
11. brash \_\_\_\_\_ e. not showing emotion
12. recalcitrant \_\_\_\_\_ f. assertive; irreverent

### “FOR DISTINGUISHED DEVOTION TO DUTY”

Some months later, Dorie Miller was serving on an aircraft carrier when Admiral Chester Nimitz, the commander of the Pacific Fleet, came aboard to preside over a special awards ceremony. In **stentorian** tones, the admiral presented Miller with the prestigious Navy Cross, commending him for his singular act of valor and “disregard for his own personal safety.” Prior to the battle, many of Miller's shipmates, who had treated him with a **haughty** sense of superiority, were also notable for their displays of **bravado**. While some of these same sailors abandoned ship in terror during the attack, Miller had displayed true **pluck** while maintaining an inspiring degree of **gravitas** under fire. Miller's example helped to shatter the previously **intractable** bias against African Americans in the armed forces. Although he could have accepted a sinecure at a U.S. naval base, Dorie remained in the combat zone and was killed in action in December 1943.

1. Washington's \_\_\_\_\_ was so great that he was addressed as “his excellency.”
2. A team of expensive all-stars will often lose to a cheaper team with more

- \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. A judge with a \_\_\_\_\_ voice can command a courtroom.
4. In retrospect, given his quick knockout, the challenger's \_\_\_\_\_ was laughable.
5. While it may resemble a horse, the zebra is quite \_\_\_\_\_ .
6. The new manager's \_\_\_\_\_ manner quickly alienated his entire staff.

7. stentorian \_\_\_\_\_ a. dignity
8. haughty \_\_\_\_\_ b. great courage
9. bravado \_\_\_\_\_ c. acting superior
10. pluck \_\_\_\_\_ d. cannot be managed
11. gravitas \_\_\_\_\_ e. showy appearance of courage
12. intractable \_\_\_\_\_ f. having a loud voice

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. affront \*\*\*\*\* a. unwilling to change
2. audacity \*\*\*\*\* b. acting superior
3. braggadocio \*\*\*\*\* c. defiant; uncooperative
4. brash \*\*\*\*\* d. having a loud voice
5. bravado \*\*\*\*\* e. great courage
6. brazen \*\*\*\*\* f. bold
7. effrontery \*\*\*\*\* g. daring; enterprising
8. formidable \*\*\*\*\* h. arrogant; fierce
9. gravitas \*\*\*\*\* i. boldness; decisiveness
10. haughty \*\*\*\*\* j. insolence; disrespect
11. imperious \*\*\*\*\* k. unable to be intimidated or defeated
12. indomitable \*\*\*\*\* l. dignity
13. intractable \*\*\*\*\* m. display of courage or arrogance
14. intransigence \*\*\*\*\* n. unfazed by adversity
15. intrepid \*\*\*\*\* o. cannot be managed
16. obdurate \*\*\*\*\* p. showy appearance of courage

17. pluck	***** q. carelessness
18. poise	***** r. offensive act
19. recalcitrant	***** s. stubbornness; refusal to back down
20. stalwart	***** t. not showing emotion
21. stentorian	***** u. durable; powerfully built
22. stolid	***** v. impressively powerful or tough
23. temerity	***** w. assertive; irreverent
24. undaunted	***** x. calm and dignified manner

### DANNY ESCOBEDO GOES TO JAIL

In 1960, a young Chicagoan, Danny Escobedo, was given a 20-year jail sentence for an **unconscionable** crime. Danny had confessed to **perpetrating** the murder of his brother-in-law after the police had refused to allow him to see his lawyer. Actually, Danny, the **alleged** killer, was tricked into blaming a friend for the **egregious** crime, thereby establishing himself as an **accomplice**. Despite the fact that Danny later recanted his confession, he was found **culpable** and jailed. Danny had been profiled as a hoodlum, and nobody raised an eyebrow over the hapless felon's troubles.

1. Gavril Princip, the killer of Archduke Ferdinand, worked with several \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. The most \_\_\_\_\_ crimes capture the most publicity.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ thief was never convicted due to lack of evidence.
4. A person with no morals is easily capable of the \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. To be \_\_\_\_\_ in a conspiracy to commit a crime, one need only have foreknowledge of the deed and aid it by one overt act.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the 1920 Wall Street Bombing was never identified.
7. unconscionable \_\_\_\_\_ a. deserving blame
8. perpetrator \_\_\_\_\_ b. accused of being
9. alleged \_\_\_\_\_ c. associate in crime
10. egregious \_\_\_\_\_ d. without decency

11. accomplice \_\_\_\_\_ e. outrageously bad

12. culpable \_\_\_\_\_ f. one who performs a crime

### ESCOBEDO'S LAWYER APPEALS

Barry Kroll, a Chicago lawyer, took an interest in Danny Escobedo's case. Kroll felt that his client's rights under the Constitution had been **abrogated**. Since Escobedo had **blatantly** been denied access to an attorney, Kroll asked the courts to **expurgate** him forthwith. He proposed that lawyers be present when the police question someone suspected of an **infraction**, but the Illinois courts rejected that on the grounds that it would result in **rampant** interference with all questioning by legal authorities. If such a law were upheld, the police felt that it would **jeopardize** their ability to conduct criminal investigations.

1. The police cannot prevent every \_\_\_\_\_, so they must prioritize serious crimes.

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ violence of Chicago during Prohibition is still the subject of movies.

3. Accepting gifts can \_\_\_\_\_ a college athlete's eligibility to play sports.

4. Many treaties made between Native Americans and the United States during the nineteenth century were later \_\_\_\_\_ at the latter's convenience.

5. The advent of DNA evidence \_\_\_\_\_ many who were wrongfully convicted.

6. Fascists often tell \_\_\_\_\_ lies as a demonstration of their power.

7. abrogate \_\_\_\_\_ a. done openly

8. blatant \_\_\_\_\_ b. a violation of rules or law

9. expurgate \_\_\_\_\_ c. to imperil

10. infraction \_\_\_\_\_ d. exonerate

11. rampant \_\_\_\_\_ e. to revoke; treat as nonexistent

12. jeopardize \_\_\_\_\_ f. widespread

### A HISTORIC SUPREME COURT RULING

Lawyer Kroll persevered in his defense of Danny Escobedo. The case was argued



before the Supreme Court, and in 1964, in a landmark decision, the Court reversed Danny's conviction. Legal aid, said the judges, must be instantly available to a suspect before **indictment**. "A system of law enforcement that comes to depend on the confession," one justice **reprimanded**, "will, in the long run, become **tainted** and less reliable than one that depends on **empirical** evidence independently secured through skillful investigation." A justice **admonished** against what many considered to be legal **heresy**: "I think the rule is ill-conceived and that it seriously fetters perfectly legitimate methods of criminal enforcement."

1. The judge \_\_\_\_\_ the first-time offenders and let them off without punishment.
2. Given the strife caused by competing theologies, the medieval church had no tolerance for \_\_\_\_\_
3. The shipment of \_\_\_\_\_ milk led to hundreds of cases of food poisoning.
4. The doctor firmly \_\_\_\_\_ the ulcer patient against taking aspirin.
5. Despite its popularity among fiscal conservatives, \_\_\_\_\_ data for the benefits of supply side economics has proven elusive.
6. After her alibi was shown to be fabricated, the widow was \_\_\_\_\_ for murder.

7. indict \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to scold
8. reprimand \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** based on experience
9. taint \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** to scold; to warn
10. empirical \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** ideas contrary to accepted beliefs
11. admonish \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to make impure
12. heresy \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** to formally accuse

### THE EFFECTS OF THE ESCOBEDO DECISION

After Danny Escobedo's release from prison, hundreds of inmates brought lawsuits to **redress** their alleged rights violations. Each case was heard on its merits and many who had been convicted of **flagrant** offenses were freed. After getting out, Danny led a nomadic existence, relying on **nepotism** to gain employment without qualifications. The police maintained he was a **culprit** in numerous crimes. Danny

was **unrepentant, castigating** the justice system for harassment. Although the Escobedo case was controversial, most agree that it inspired better law enforcement procedures and increased scientific crime detection.

1. Dictatorships often are marked by rampant \_\_\_\_\_ enriching the leader's family.
2. The First Amendment includes the right to petition for a \_\_\_\_\_ of grievances.
3. After a raid revealed \_\_\_\_\_ health code violations, the restaurant was shuttered.
4. The intern was \_\_\_\_\_ so harshly that he soon quit.
5. The governor vowed that the \_\_\_\_\_ of the attack would be brought to justice.
6. By his demeanor, it was clear to the jury that the killer was completely \_\_\_\_\_ .

- |                 |       |  |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| 7. redress      | _____ | a. corrupt favoritism, usually toward family |
| 8. flagrant     | _____ | b. guilty person                             |
| 9. nepotism     | _____ | c. remedy or compensation                    |
| 10. culprit     | _____ | d. scold harshly                             |
| 11. unrepentant | _____ | e. obvious                                   |
| 12. castigate   | _____ | f. without remorse                           |

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |               |       |  |
|---------------|-------|--|
| 1. abrogate   | ***** | a. to scold; to warn                         |
| 2. accomplice | ***** | b. remedy or compensation                    |
| 3. admonish   | ***** | c. done openly                               |
| 4. alleged    | ***** | d. to formally accuse                        |
| 5. blatant    | ***** | e. to revoke; treat as nonexistent           |
| 6. castigate  | ***** | f. without decency                           |
| 7. culpable   | ***** | g. corrupt favoritism, usually toward family |
| 8. culprit    | ***** | h. to make impure                            |

9. egregious	***** i. a violation of rules or law
10. empirical	***** j. scold harshly
11. expurgate	***** k. widespread
12. flagrant	***** l. without remorse
13. heresy	***** m. accused of being
14. indict	***** n. obvious
15. infraction	***** o. to imperil
16. jeopardize	***** p. guilty person
17. nepotism	***** q. deserving blame
18. perpetrator	***** r. associate in crime
19. rampant	***** s. to scold
20. redress	***** t. based on experience
21. reprimand	***** u. exonerate
22. taint	***** v. ideas contrary to accepted beliefs
23. unconscionable	***** w. one who performs a crime
24. unrepentant	***** x. outrageous

## MEET THE BEES

One of the most interesting inhabitants of our world is the bee, an industrious insect that is indigenous to all parts of the globe except the polar regions. The honeybee is a **resourceful** insect whose habitat is a colony that he shares with as many as 80,000 bees. Although the individual bees are essentially **automatons** that live for only a few days, their colony can **persevere** for several years. A cursory study of the activities of these insects reveals a **punctiliousness** and a social structure that is truly amazing. For example, bees in a particular hive have a distinct odor; therefore, when an intruder seeks access, **vigilant** guard bees can identify him quickly and repulse his invasion.

1. Gandhi taught Indians to \_\_\_\_\_ in their fight without using force.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ Lakota derived dozens of uses for the buffalo they hunted.
3. With better pay and benefits, workers tend to be more \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Early industrialists wanted workers to be \_\_\_\_\_ , performing repetitive

mundane tasks.

5. The foreman was \_\_\_\_\_ in his quest to root out unionizing among workers.

6. From cooperative factory work came the need to be \_\_\_\_\_ about time.

7. industrious \_\_\_\_\_ a. strict regarding details

8. resourceful \_\_\_\_\_ b. hardworking

9. automaton \_\_\_\_\_ c. to struggle through adversity

10. persevere \_\_\_\_\_ d. skillful at finding solutions

11. punctilious \_\_\_\_\_ e. carefully watchful

12. vigilant \_\_\_\_\_

## QUEENS, WORKERS, DRONES

Each colony of honeybees consists of three classes: a) the queen who is an **unflagging** layer of eggs, b) the **attentive** worker, and c) the sedentary drone whose only function is to mate with a young queen. The queen lays the eggs that hatch into thousands of female workers; some queens live as long as five years and can **unstintingly** lay up to one million eggs. The **thrifty** worker **meticulously** builds and maintains the nest and frugally collects and stores the honey. The lazy drone, or male honeybee, does not work and has no sting. When the drone is no longer needed, the workers **promptly** let him starve to death. It's a cruel, cruel world!

1. The team owner was \_\_\_\_\_ in his praise of the new coach.

2. Survivors of the Great Depression formed a lifetime habit of being \_\_\_\_\_ .

3. \_\_\_\_\_ service is prized in the restaurant industry.

4. The \_\_\_\_\_ building inspector noticed small cracks in the building's foundation.

5. As the ferocity of the 1900 hurricane became apparent, the \_\_\_\_\_ telegraph operator stayed at his post and saved lives by stopping rail service into Galveston.

6. Spouses who are \_\_\_\_\_ to each other's needs tend to stay together.

7. unflagging \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** keeping a close eye on something
8. attentive \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** fast and reliable
9. unstinting \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** careful about spending and waste
10. meticulous \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** generous
11. thrifty \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** tireless
12. prompt \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** particular about details

### SPOTLIGHT ON THE WORKER

Let us examine the activities of the **assiduous** workers in greater detail. After the workers have completed the **arduous** task of constructing a hive of waterproof honeycomb (made from beeswax), the queen begins to lay eggs in the first cells. While some workers **scrupulously** tend the hive, others **forage** for nectar and pollen. Once provisioned, they fly back to the hive and then dance around the honeycomb, their movements indicating the direction of the flowers. Meanwhile, other workers have been cleaning cells, caring for the young, and guarding the precious cache of nectar. Another **indefatigable** cohort is entrusted with heating or cooling the hive. Dedicated to the welfare of the entire insect community, all of these workers are not **chary** about working hard.

1. Prior to the invention of agriculture, humans \_\_\_\_\_ for much of their food.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ in his own dealings, Andrew Mellon was one of the few honest brokers in the Harding Administration.
3. Following the Mormon Trail from Nebraska to Utah was an \_\_\_\_\_ journey.
4. Unlike the other Founding Fathers, Burr worked \_\_\_\_\_ for his own interests.
5. Nuclear deterrence made the U.S. and U.S.S.R. \_\_\_\_\_ about the prospect of war.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ Fiorello LaGuardia expanded New York's infrastructure and fought both corruption and organized crime during three terms as mayor.
7. assiduous \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** tireless

8. arduous \_\_\_\_\_ b. wary; averse to risks  
9. scrupulous \_\_\_\_\_ c. to gather resources  
10. forage \_\_\_\_\_ d. hardworking  
11. indefatigable \_\_\_\_\_ e. difficult  
12. chary \_\_\_\_\_ f. careful about details; ethical

## THE SAGA OF THE QUEEN BEE

Although the *laborious* lives of the workers are remarkable, the queen bee is really the main story. Workers *fastidiously* choose a few larvae to be aspiring queens, feeding them royal jelly, a substance rich in proteins and vitamins. While the queen is changing from a larva to a pupa, a team of workers builds a special cell for her. Soon the young queen hatches, eats the prepared honey, and grows strong, resolved to reign. After she kills any rivals who challenge her, she flies from the hive soliciting the drones that can fly highest to mate with her. Then the process of egg laying begins. When her progeny saturate the hive, *tenacious* scouts are dispatched to find a new location, and the bees swarm after their leader to begin the amazing cycle again.

1. It's unwise to \_\_\_\_\_ advice from people of unknown character.
2. General MacArthur famously \_\_\_\_\_ to retake the Philippines.
3. During the Renaissance, talented \_\_\_\_\_ artists were apprenticed to great masters.
4. Many investigators take crime personally and are \_\_\_\_\_ in their efforts to bring down perpetrators who believe they are above the law.
5. It can come off as vanity to be overly \_\_\_\_\_ about one's appearance.
6. Coaling a warship was one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ tasks a sailor would perform.

7. laborious \_\_\_\_\_ a. stubborn; unwilling to let go  
8. fastidious \_\_\_\_\_ b. settle on a course of action  
9. aspire \_\_\_\_\_ c. requiring considerable hard work  
10. resolve \_\_\_\_\_ d. to aim for a high position  
11. solicit \_\_\_\_\_ e. detail oriented; particular

**12.** tenacious \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** to ask for something from someone

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>1.</b> arduous           | ***** <b>a.</b> particular about details                                     |
| <b>2.</b> aspire            | ***** <b>b.</b> wary; averse to risks  |
| <b>3.</b> assiduous         | ***** <b>c.</b> strict regarding details                                     |
| <b>4.</b> attentive         | ***** <b>d.</b> hardworking (1)  |
| <b>5.</b> automaton         | ***** <b>e.</b> fast and reliable  |
| <b>6.</b> chary             | ***** <b>f.</b> skillful at finding solutions                                |
| <b>7.</b> fastidious        | ***** <b>g.</b> carefully watchful   |
| <b>8.</b> forage            | ***** <b>h.</b> settle on a course of action                                 |
| <b>9.</b> thrifty           | ***** <b>i.</b> tireless (1)   |
| <b>10.</b><br>indefatigable | ***** <b>j.</b> careful about spending and waste                             |
| <b>11.</b> industrious      | ***** <b>k.</b> difficult  |
| <b>12.</b> laborious        | ***** <b>l.</b> to aim for a high position                                   |
| <b>13.</b> meticulous       | ***** <b>m.</b> to struggle through adversity                                |
| <b>14.</b> persevere        | ***** <b>n.</b> to ask for something from someone                            |
| <b>15.</b> prompt           | ***** <b>o.</b> hardworking (2)  |
| <b>16.</b> punctilious      | ***** <b>p.</b> requiring considerable hard work                             |
| <b>17.</b> resolve          | ***** <b>q.</b> keeping a close eye on something                             |
| <b>18.</b> resourceful      | ***** <b>r.</b> careful about details; ethical                               |
| <b>19.</b> scrupulous       | ***** <b>s.</b> to gather resources  |
| <b>20.</b> solicit          | ***** <b>t.</b> generous   |
| <b>21.</b> tenacious        | ***** <b>u.</b> tireless (2)   |
| <b>22.</b> unflagging       | ***** <b>v.</b> stubborn; unwilling to let go                                |
| <b>23.</b> unstinting       | ***** <b>w.</b> detail oriented; particular                                  |
| <b>24.</b> vigilant         | ***** <b>x.</b> machine or person that follows instructions without thinking |

## A PLAN TO FOOL THE NAZIS

In war, misinformation is an important tool to **alleviate** enemy scrutiny of secret operations. One of the truly remarkable stories of World War II concerns a ruse that helped **ameliorate** Allied losses during the most dangerous operation of the war. The simple and ingenious subterfuge, which British officers concocted, is the subject of Ewen Montagu's classic, **The Man Who Never Was**. In short, the idea was to plant false documents and **credentials** concerning the Allied invasion of Europe upon a dead officer, then have his body recovered by agents who, looking to **ingratiate** themselves with the Nazis, would transmit the lie to Germany. By observing German behavior, the British would then know if the Nazis were **cajoled** into **accommodating** their plan to divert German troops away from the beaches of Normandy.

1. Which \_\_\_\_\_ a voter can use has become a matter of bitter political debate.
  2. Most standardized test makers now \_\_\_\_\_ test takers with special needs.
  3. A sluice way helps \_\_\_\_\_ pressure on a dam.
  4. Lennox knew how to \_\_\_\_\_ his parents into heeding his wishes.
  5. The chairman would not tolerate subordinates who tried to \_\_\_\_\_ themselves through flattery.
  6. Nixon's declarations failed to \_\_\_\_\_ indignation caused by Watergate.
- 
- |                 |       |  |
|-----------------|-------|--|
| 7. alleviate    | _____ | a. documents that establish one's identity |
| 8. ameliorate   | _____ | b. to gently or subtly persuade            |
| 9. credentials  | _____ | c. to comply with another's wishes         |
| 10. ingratiate  | _____ | d. to improve a bad situation              |
| 11. cajole      | _____ | e. to gain favor                           |
| 12. accommodate | _____ | f. to lessen the impact of something       |

### **"MAJOR MARTIN" GOES TO WAR**

After repeated **entreaties**, Commander Montagu and his colleagues **wheedled** official approval for their dangerous escapade from their superiors. First, they needed a body that looked as though it had recently been killed in an airplane disaster. Then, a detailed history of the man had to be invented that would be so impeccable that the



enemy would be **propitiated**. Documents, love letters, personal effects, keys, and photographs were needed to **allay** suspicions. Commander Montagu's fears that the ruse would fail were only **assuaged** once every detail had been considered. Failure would mean more sad telegrams to **inconsolable** parents. As a result, in the late spring of 1942, "Major Martin" was prepared to do his part for his country.

1. The widow's grief was somewhat \_\_\_\_\_ knowing her husband died a hero.
2. Ancient peoples often made blood sacrifices to \_\_\_\_\_ their gods.
3. The tyrant was \_\_\_\_\_ when his orders were disobeyed for any reason.
4. The doctor's cold, clinical manner did little to \_\_\_\_\_ his patients' fears.
5. Greta Thunberg has made \_\_\_\_\_ to world leaders regarding climate change.
6. The kitten was quickly adept at \_\_\_\_\_ extra food from her owner.

- |                  |       |  |
|------------------|-------|--|
| 7. entreaty      | _____ | a. to appease                          |
| 8. wheedle       | _____ | b. unable to be comforted              |
| 9. propitiate    | _____ | c. a plea                              |
| 10. allay        | _____ | d. to lessen pain or grief             |
| 11. assuage      | _____ | e. to obtain by flattery or persuasion |
| 12. inconsolable | _____ | f. to calm fears, worries, or doubts   |

### THE PLOT THICKENS

A submarine slipped "Major Martin" into the Atlantic waters off the coast of Huelva, Spain. Attached to the courier's coat was a briefcase that contained the components of the hoax. Fascist Spain was technically neutral but had been a **petitioner** for German aid during the recent civil war. Thus, the Spanish were inclined to **placate** the Nazis. Shortly thereafter, the Spanish Embassy notified the British, with their **condolences**, that the body had been recovered. But Commander Montagu learned that the important documents had already been scrutinized and later resealed to **quell** British suspicions. With the usual diplomatic **blandishments**, the Spanish **importuned** the German High Command to evaluate the find. Now, the true test of the months of assiduous planning would come—would the Germans swallow the

bait?

1. The warlord had learned to disregard the \_\_\_\_\_ of those seeking favor.
  2. Lloyd George chose to \_\_\_\_\_ labor unrest during World War I by giving in.
  3. The old friends reconnected when Dr. Lambeau offered his \_\_\_\_\_ to Dr. McGwire after his wife's death.
  4. The \_\_\_\_\_
  5. The reporter repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_
  6. Despite their modest declamations, fascist ambitions are never \_\_\_\_\_ .
- 
7. petitioner \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** words of comfort
  8. placate \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** to quiet disorder or rebellion
  9. condolence \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** one making a formal request
  10. quell \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to badger someone
  11. blandishment \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to satisfy
  12. importune \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** flattery

### A PUZZLE FOR HIS MAJESTY

All evidence confirmed that the German High Command, **insatiable** for intelligence into Allied movements, was **pacified** by the ruse. Their defense troops were **deflected** from the true invasion sites to inconsequential areas. Subsequently, when the actual attack took place, Allied losses were **mollified**. The Allied deception campaign was so successful that even after the attack had begun, German commanders had to **implore** their superiors for help. Only after the false attack failed to materialize was the high command **coerced** by events into reinforcing the Normandy sector. After the war, Commander Montagu received a medal from the king of England. At the presentation ceremony, the king politely inquired where the young officer had earned his citation. "At the Admiralty," Montagu replied.

1. Union officers \_\_\_\_\_ their men to fight, but the Bull Run defeat was total.
2. The genuine respect shown by the victorious Devils helped \_\_\_\_\_ the

frustration the Ducks felt after their Cinderella run came to an end.

3. “What about” arguments are a classic strategy to \_\_\_\_\_ attention from an accusation without refuting it.

4. The defense lawyer had the case dropped after proving the confession had been \_\_\_\_\_ .

5. The obstreperous mob’s appetite for violence proved to be \_\_\_\_\_ .

6. Pizza and a movie were enough to \_\_\_\_\_ the disappointed children.

7. insatiable \_\_\_\_\_ a. to calm; to satisfy

8. pacify \_\_\_\_\_ b. to beg someone

9. deflect \_\_\_\_\_ c. to force compliance by threat

10. mollify \_\_\_\_\_ d. cannot be satisfied

11. implore \_\_\_\_\_ e. to calm; to decrease the severity of something

12. coerce \_\_\_\_\_

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. accommodate \*\*\*\*\* a. unable to be comforted

2. allay \*\*\*\*\* b. flattery

3. alleviate \*\*\*\*\* c. documents that establish one’s identity

4. ameliorate \*\*\*\*\* d. to lessen the impact of something

5. assuage \*\*\*\*\* e. to comply with another’s wishes

6. blandishment \*\*\*\*\* f. to beg someone

7. cajole \*\*\*\*\* g. to gain favor

8. coerce \*\*\*\*\* h. to gently or subtly persuade

9. condolence \*\*\*\*\* i. to satisfy

10. credentials \*\*\*\*\* j. to calm; to satisfy

11. deflect \*\*\*\*\* k. to appease

12. entreaty \*\*\*\*\* l. to improve a bad situation

13. implore \*\*\*\*\* m. a plea

14. importune \*\*\*\*\* n. cannot be satisfied

15. inconsolable \*\*\*\*\* o. to obtain by flattery or persuasion

- |                |       |  |
|----------------|-------|--|
| 16. ingratiate | ***** | <b>p.</b> to calm fears, worries, or doubts              |
| 17. insatiable | ***** | <b>q.</b> to redirect something from its path or purpose |
| 18. mollify    | ***** | <b>r.</b> words of comfort                               |
| 19. pacify     | ***** | <b>s.</b> to quiet disorder or rebellion                 |
| 20. petitioner | ***** | <b>t.</b> one making a formal request                    |
| 21. placate    | ***** | <b>u.</b> to badger someone                              |
| 22. propitiate | ***** | <b>v.</b> to force compliance by threat                  |
| 23. quell      | ***** | <b>w.</b> to calm; to decrease the severity of something |
| 24. wheedle    | ***** | <b>x.</b> to lessen pain or grief                        |

## TEACHING CHIMPANZEES TO TALK

Two resourceful psychologists at the University of Nevada have made splendid progress **evoking** complex communication from chimpanzees using human language. Following a number of abortive attempts to **impart** French, German, or English vocabulary to the gregarious primates, the researchers persevered until they hit upon the American Sign Language system. This has proven a perfect fit for the physically **demonstrative** animals, whose movements naturally include **hailing** each other in greeting. The researchers have had to modify the language somewhat in order to accommodate the animals' **gesticulations**. With a **lexicon** of innate movements and learned ones, some chimps now have an extensive vocabulary.

1. The swimmer \_\_\_\_\_ wildly to get the lifeguard's attention.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ umpire enhances the drama of a baseball game.
3. Failure is not in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the ebullient CEO.
4. Rush hour is the worst time to \_\_\_\_\_ a cab in New York.
5. The former POW's story \_\_\_\_\_ sadness and anger in the audience.
6. Parents \_\_\_\_\_ all the wisdom they can to their children.

- |                   |       |   |
|-------------------|-------|---|
| 7. evoke          | _____ | <b>a.</b> visually expressive                 |
| 8. impart         | _____ | <b>b.</b> list of words                       |
| 9. hail           | _____ | <b>c.</b> to elicit                           |
| 10. demonstrative | _____ | <b>d.</b> to express oneself through movement |

11. gesticulate \_\_\_\_\_ e. bestow; offer up  
12. lexicon \_\_\_\_\_ f. to signal; to salute

## CHIMPANZEES ARE SMART

Washoe the chimpanzee has more than a **veneer** of intelligence; she can signal her desire to eat, go in or out, be covered, or brush her teeth. In addition, she can make signs for **emotive** expressions like “I’m sorry” and “I hurt.” Humans convey information through **countenance** and gesture, after all. This **vivacious** animal can **evince** her desire for more dessert by putting her fingers together (“more”), and then placing her index and second fingers on top of her tongue (“sweet”). With hardly a **grimace**, she has mastered her daily assignments.

1. Iago never outwardly \_\_\_\_\_ his hatred for Othello.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ young bride captivated all of the wedding guests.
3. Using \_\_\_\_\_ language to frame a policy debate can strongly influence voters.
4. Gilded jewelry has a thin \_\_\_\_\_ of gold that soon chips away.
5. The dentist could tell by the patient’s \_\_\_\_\_ that he needed more Novocaine.
6. Throughout the trial, Eichmann wore an impassive \_\_\_\_\_ despite the horrors that were related by witnesses and on film.

7. veneer \_\_\_\_\_ a. expressing strong feelings  
8. emotive \_\_\_\_\_ b. facial expression  
9. vivacious \_\_\_\_\_ c. pained expression  
10. evince \_\_\_\_\_ d. thin covering  
11. countenance \_\_\_\_\_ e. to make a feeling known  
12. grimace \_\_\_\_\_ f. lively

## EASY TO TRAIN

The chimpanzees are deemed by scientists to be the closest to humans in terms of the **tableau** of abilities they possess. Several years ago, two married researchers **avidly** embarked on an interesting project: they reared and trained a chimp in almost the

same manner as they would have raised a child. While some might **wince** at the idea of living with an animal in such a manner, the **diminutive** baby chimp did beautifully, convincing the couple of the **innate** ability of the chimpanzee. Is it really such a surprise? Coming face to face with any great ape, the interplay of emotion and reasoning visible in its **mien** is so analogous to the workings of our own minds.

1. The chief of staff \_\_\_\_\_ at his boss's verbal gaffe.
2. Eddie seems to have an \_\_\_\_\_ sense of direction: he's never lost.
3. Babies can scrutinize the \_\_\_\_\_ of a stranger for threat or security.
4. Raphael's School of Athens is a famous \_\_\_\_\_ of ancient philosophers.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ Statue of Liberty in Paris was a model for the real one.
6. An \_\_\_\_\_ expert of a sport is better described as an aficionado.

- |                |       |                                |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 7. tableau     | _____ | a. to flinch slightly          |
| 8. avid        | _____ | b. arising naturally           |
| 9. wince       | _____ | c. collection; assembly        |
| 10. diminutive | _____ | d. enthusiastic                |
| 11. innate     | _____ | e. revealing facial expression |
| 12. mien       | _____ | f. very small                  |

### MORE FACTS ABOUT CHIMPS

Chimpanzees are known for expressing themselves with other individuals in their troop by means of sounds, motion, and **demeanor**. While some vocalizations have obvious meaning, others are more **nondescript**. Like humans, however, the chimp has an expressive **physiognomy**. Socially chimps live in small groups with a dominance hierarchy usually dominated by males. To avoid violence, male chimps prefer to assume a fearsome **facade** to get rivals to back down. Chimps have a **penchant** for forming alliances, which can improve their social standing, often to the **chagrin** of stronger but less "popular" males.

1. Many nineteenth-century Midwestern buildings have impressive \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. To my manager's \_\_\_\_\_ , I have decided to accept the job offer.
3. Dora has a \_\_\_\_\_ for lateness so save her a place at dinner.

4. The Secret Service agent quickly noted the \_\_\_\_\_ of the menacing heckler.
5. Cato the Elder's cantankerous disposition is clear in the grim, well-lined \_\_\_\_\_ of his famous plaster bust.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ appearance is an asset for a covert operative.
7. demeanor \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** lacking notable characteristics
8. nondescript \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** bearing or behavior
9. physiognomy \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** distress
10. facade \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** preference; tendency
11. penchant \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** outer face or shell
12. chagrin \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** revealing facial expression or appearance

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. avid \*\*\*\*\* **a.** visually expressive
2. chagrin \*\*\*\*\* **b.** arising naturally
3. countenance \*\*\*\*\* **c.** to elicit
4. demeanor \*\*\*\*\* **d.** outer face or shell
5. demonstrative \*\*\*\*\* **e.** pained expression
6. diminutive \*\*\*\*\* **f.** revealing facial expression
7. emotive \*\*\*\*\* **g.** facial expression
8. evince \*\*\*\*\* **h.** lacking notable characteristics
9. evoke \*\*\*\*\* **i.** thin covering
10. facade \*\*\*\*\* **j.** bestow; offer up
11. gesticulate \*\*\*\*\* **k.** collection; assembly
12. grimace \*\*\*\*\* **l.** distress
13. hail \*\*\*\*\* **m.** expressing strong feelings
14. impart \*\*\*\*\* **n.** to signal; to salute
15. innate \*\*\*\*\* **o.** to express oneself through movement
16. lexicon \*\*\*\*\* **p.** enthusiastic
17. mien \*\*\*\*\* **q.** to make a feeling known

18. nondescript \*\*\*\*\* r. lively

19. penchant \*\*\*\*\* s. to flinch slightly

20. physiognomy \*\*\*\*\* t. revealing facial expression or appearance

21. tableau \*\*\*\*\* u. bearing or behavior

22. veneer \*\*\*\*\* v. preference; tendency

23. vivacious \*\*\*\*\* w. list of words

24. wince \*\*\*\*\* x. very small

## TROUBLE IN RURITANIA

King Andre of Ruritania had come to consider himself, like God, to be omnipotent and infallible. To the chagrin of his people, he had become something of a **despot** as a result. After ten years of his **tyranny**, the treasury was bankrupt, unemployment was rampant, domestic strife was mounting, and the number of the king's opponents was **legion**. Following a bloodless **coup**, his nephew, Prince Schubert, took command of the poor nation.

1. Paradoxically, \_\_\_\_\_ is often practiced by weak, insecure regimes.
2. Fans of celebrity culture are \_\_\_\_\_, a fact that has more to do with the power of electronic media than anything else.
3. In nations where the military is politicized, \_\_\_\_\_ are all too common.
4. Considered \_\_\_\_\_ by his acolytes, the cult leader's orders were not questioned.
5. Despite his association with Voltaire, Frederick the Great was still a \_\_\_\_\_.
6. By forcing Henry II to do public penance for Becket's murder, the Pope was asserting that the church alone was \_\_\_\_\_ and even kings have to obey.

7. omnipotent \_\_\_\_\_ a. heavy-handed autocratic rule

8. infallible \_\_\_\_\_ b. undemocratic takeover of government

9. despot \_\_\_\_\_ c. all-powerful

10. tyranny \_\_\_\_\_ d. great in number

11. legion \_\_\_\_\_ e. incapable of error



12. coup \_\_\_\_\_ f. absolute ruler

## PRINCE SCHUBERT IN ACTION

Forgoing an **august** coronation, which was his **prerogative**, Prince Schubert's first move was to **abjure** persecution of political opposition. To that end, he invited home all Ruritanian expatriates. Those who had been jailed on false charges were exonerated by special tribunals. The young leader then announced that he would reform the **officious** bureaucracy. In place of King Andre's cronies, the prince installed industrious, **disinterested** ministers. In all things, his **paramount** concern was helping the country move forward. Things began to look up temporarily for the citizens who perceived in Prince Schubert sincerity, idealism, and honesty.

1. A judge cannot be so \_\_\_\_\_ about the letter of the law that she lacks good sense.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ witness of good character can give the most compelling testimony.
3. Fenway Park and Wrigley Field are two of the most \_\_\_\_\_ ballparks.
4. The aspiring senator was forced to \_\_\_\_\_ his mentor after the scandal broke.
5. As company president, it is my \_\_\_\_\_ to choose our new logo.
6. Of the Manhattan Project's many priorities, secrecy was \_\_\_\_\_ .

7. august \_\_\_\_\_ a. to formally renounce

8. prerogative \_\_\_\_\_ b. uninvolved personally or financially

9. abjure \_\_\_\_\_ c. highest

10. officious \_\_\_\_\_ d. grand; deserving respect

11. disinterested \_\_\_\_\_ e. one's right or privilege

12. paramount \_\_\_\_\_ f. overly concerned with protocol

## REFORM MOVEMENT

Ruritania's financial situation was fraught with peril. Though Prince Schubert had installed an able finance minister, the bulwark of **abstruse** rules barring unilateral action and the **puissant** jurists who upheld them seemed an **impregnable** barrier

to meaningful reform. At the local level, many of the most corrupt officials were **potentates** unto themselves, refusing all cooperation. To stave off financial collapse, the government needed the will to **subjugate** these unelected bosses who wanted reform to **miscarry** at all costs.

1. The walls of Constantinople proved \_\_\_\_\_ for a thousand years.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the ancient near east were revered as deities.
3. In due course, the Romans \_\_\_\_\_ the Latins, Etruscans, and Samnites.
4. Napoleon's reconquest of Europe in 1815 \_\_\_\_\_ before it began.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ nobles of England increasingly gained power over the crown.
6. The "fair catch kick," which allows an unobstructed field goal attempt immediately after receiving a punt, is among the most \_\_\_\_\_ plays in football.

- |                |       |                                |
|----------------|-------|--------------------------------|
| 7. abstruse    | _____ | a. unable to be taken by force |
| 8. puissant    | _____ | b. to fail during development  |
| 9. impregnable | _____ | c. to conquer or subdue        |
| 10. potentate  | _____ | d. powerful                    |
| 11. subjugate  | _____ | e. obscure                     |
| 12. miscarry   | _____ | f. ruler                       |

## DISAPPOINTMENT AND DEDICATION

When Prince Schubert asked for additional restrictive measures, the people began to balk. Preferring cooperation to **peremptory** decrees, the young reformer took to the airwaves to explain why higher taxes and food rationing were **imperative**. Nevertheless, a resistance movement bent on **stymying** the reform began to coalesce. Moreover, though they had once burned him in **effigy**, the people began to feel nostalgia for the **regal** King Andre. They admitted that corruption had been rife under Andre, but at least "everybody got his slice of the pie." Although Prince Schubert was tempted to **abdicate**, he determined that he would help the people in spite of themselves.

1. Though often reviled, compromise is \_\_\_\_\_ for a republic to function.
2. King Edward VIII famously \_\_\_\_\_ after less than a year on the throne.

3. Jay Gatsby's \_\_\_\_\_ bearing belies his humble origins.
4. To commemorate the thwarting of the Gunpowder Plot each November 5th, Britons burn \_\_\_\_\_
5. President Lincoln replaced McClellan after the Union general continued to stall despite Lincoln's \_\_\_\_\_ order to attack the Confederacy.
6. Thomas Jefferson's agenda was repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_ by the Supreme Court.
7. peremptory \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to ruin plans
8. imperative \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** having a noble or royal demeanor
9. foil \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** final; allowing no refusal
10. effigy \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to give up an office or duty
11. regal \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** mandatory
12. abdicate \_\_\_\_\_

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. abdicate \*\*\*\*\* **a.** overly concerned with details and protocol
2. abjure \*\*\*\*\* **b.** heavy-handed autocratic rule
3. abstruse \*\*\*\*\* **c.** uninvolved personally or financially
4. august \*\*\*\*\* **d.** all-powerful
5. coup \*\*\*\*\* **e.** final; allowing no refusal
6. despot \*\*\*\*\* **f.** incapable of error
7. disinterested \*\*\*\*\* **g.** absolute ruler
8. effigy \*\*\*\*\* **h.** undemocratic takeover of government
9. foil \*\*\*\*\* **i.** to conquer or subdue
10. imperative \*\*\*\*\* **j.** to formally renounce
11. impregnable \*\*\*\*\* **k.** to fail during development
12. infallible \*\*\*\*\* **l.** highest
13. legion \*\*\*\*\* **m.** grand; deserving respect
14. miscarry \*\*\*\*\* **n.** mandatory
15. officious \*\*\*\*\* **o.** obscure
16. omnipotent \*\*\*\*\* **p.** great in number

17. paramount \*\*\*\*\* **q.** a model of a person made for destruction
18. peremptory \*\*\*\*\* **r.** unable to be taken by force
19. potentate \*\*\*\*\* **s.** having a noble or royal demeanor
20. prerogative \*\*\*\*\* **t.** one's right or privilege
21. puissant \*\*\*\*\* **u.** powerful
22. regal \*\*\*\*\* **v.** to give up an office or duty
23. subjugate \*\*\*\*\* **w.** to prevent or obstruct
24. tyranny \*\*\*\*\* **x.** ruler

## LA CUCARACHA—THE COCKROACH

The poor cockroach has been called the “most **vilified** creature on the face of the earth.” Nobody loves him—except, perhaps, another cockroach. Fiction, nonfiction, and poetry are replete with **defamatory** references to these ubiquitous bugs. Public health officials in published **polemics** are quick to **denigrate** the insects as carriers of viruses that cause yellow fever and polio. Recent studies show that an allergy to roaches may contribute significantly to asthma. Little wonder, therefore, that the pesky cockroach has been so **stigmatized** and is the target of universal **opprobrium**.

1. Written \_\_\_\_\_ remarks without evidence can be grounds for a libel suit.
2. While \_\_\_\_\_ expose problems, they offer few solutions.
3. A public figure who apologizes for a mistake should not be \_\_\_\_\_ for life.
4. Cannabis use was largely \_\_\_\_\_ during the 1930s due to its association with countercultural elements in society.
5. Fascism has earned the \_\_\_\_\_ heaped on it by historians.
6. Alfred Dreyfus, who was falsely convicted of espionage by the French army, was

7. vilify \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** written or spoken attack
8. defamatory \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** to put someone down
9. polemic \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** to cast in a negative light
10. denigrate \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** disgrace
11. stigmatize \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** criticize or condemn

12. opprobrium \_\_\_\_\_ f. harmful toward one's reputation

## WAITER, PLEASE TAKE THIS BOWL OF SOUP BACK

Cockroaches have *besmirched* reputations for a number of reasons. Doctors understandably *excoriate* cockroaches because of the health risks they pose. Those that live with them, however, take *umbrage* with their smell. Upon entering a cellar that is redolent with their aroma, you are not likely to forget the odor. The most intense *calumny* you can level at a place of lodging for its lack of cleanliness is to *deride* it as a “roach motel.” Roaches will also *condescend* to feed on literally anything: wallpaper, upholstery, nylon stockings, and beer.

1. Voters are tired of leaders who \_\_\_\_\_ to them.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is a fancy word for character assassination.
3. After Lily Bart's name is \_\_\_\_\_ by a prominent woman in New York society, she becomes a social outcast.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ felt by supporters of both parties is quite intense.
5. Those who \_\_\_\_\_ the young, ambitious Nixon became his lifelong enemies.
6. Peter Stuyvesant was \_\_\_\_\_ by his employers for attempting to exclude Jews from New Amsterdam.

7. besmirch \_\_\_\_\_ a. false insulting remarks

8. excoriate \_\_\_\_\_ b. offence

9. umbrage \_\_\_\_\_ c. to mock

10. calumny \_\_\_\_\_ d. to act superior

11. deride \_\_\_\_\_ e. attack someone's character

12. condescend \_\_\_\_\_ f. harshly criticize

## THE ROACH LIVES ON

Although we *belittle* them, cockroaches are remarkable survivors. They are the oldest extant winged insects, dating back 350 million years. In comparison, our 100,000-year existence is *risible*. In response to human roach-bashing, one writer has *retorted*, “The miraculous survival of the roach is explained by its inherent

adaptability.” They **scoff** at the dangers of weather, natural disasters, and war. They reside comfortably in caves in South America, in transcontinental airplanes, on mountain tops, in Park Avenue edifices, and in television sets. In fact, many a cynic has **quipped** that cockroaches would be the only thing left after a nuclear war. It’s only natural that such an ancient creature is indifferent to our **disdain**.

1. Before Einstein, many scientists \_\_\_\_\_ at the idea of the atom.
2. Mencken was always ready with a quick \_\_\_\_\_ to any jibe.
3. The general public considered the Edsel’s design \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. The French aristocracy’s \_\_\_\_\_ for the Third Estate helped provoke revolution.
5. It is not socially acceptable to \_\_\_\_\_ those who are physically different.
6. Gandhi famously \_\_\_\_\_ that Western Civilization is a “nice idea.”

- |             |       |                           |
|-------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 7. belittle | _____ | a. to make a witty remark |
| 8. risible  | _____ | b. to dismiss scornfully  |
| 9. retort   | _____ | c. to make fun of someone |
| 10. scoff   | _____ | d. reply to an insult     |
| 11. quip    | _____ | e. contempt or distaste   |
| 12. disdain | _____ | f. ridiculous             |

### TONGUE IN CHEEK?

An array of products exist that purportedly exterminate roaches. They are often marketed with commercials that **disparage** the insects as **repulsive** and helpless before the might of man-made poisons. Scientists have **repudiated** such claims by pointing out that whenever a new insecticide debuts, it only provides temporary relief. Hardy roaches always survive and breed offspring resistant to the new insecticide. **Contemptuous** of the roach as we may be, any long-term solution seems unlikely. Some sentimental souls even **deprecate** such attempts. A writer **caustically** suggested a crash program of aid for the cockroach, calling him “a victim of his slum environment.”

1. To occasionally

2. If Woodrow Wilson had not been so \_\_\_\_\_
3. General Lanrezac helped the French avoid encirclement in 1914, but his \_\_\_\_\_
4. Scrooge eventually \_\_\_\_\_ the merciless predatory lending that made him rich.
5. Dorian Gray's portrait is as \_\_\_\_\_ as his character is corrupt.
6. The Brooklyn Dodgers, long \_\_\_\_\_ as "Bums," beat the Yankees in 1955.

7. disparage \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** disgusting
8. repulsive \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** regarded as worthless
9. repudiate \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** corrosive; sarcastic
10. contemptuous \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to reject
11. deprecate \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to disapprove of; to put down
12. caustic \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** to regard scornfully

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. belittle \*\*\*\*\* **a.** harmful toward one's reputation
2. besmirch \*\*\*\*\* **b.** to dismiss scornfully
3. calumny \*\*\*\*\* **c.** to put someone down
4. caustic \*\*\*\*\* **d.** to cast in a negative light
5. condescend \*\*\*\*\* **e.** to make fun of someone
6. contemptuous \*\*\*\*\* **f.** criticize or condemn
7. defamatory \*\*\*\*\* **g.** to attack someone's character
8. denigrate \*\*\*\*\* **h.** harshly criticize
9. deprecate \*\*\*\*\* **i.** disgrace
10. deride \*\*\*\*\* **j.** reply to an insult
11. disdain \*\*\*\*\* **k.** disgusting
12. disparage \*\*\*\*\* **l.** ridiculous
13. excoriate \*\*\*\*\* **m.** to reject
14. opprobrium \*\*\*\*\* **n.** corrosive; sarcastic
15. polemic \*\*\*\*\* **o.** to regard scornfully
16. quip \*\*\*\*\* **p.** false insulting remarks

17. repudiate	***** <b>q.</b> offence
18. repulsive	***** <b>r.</b> contempt or distaste
19. retort	***** <b>s.</b> to act superior
20. risible	***** <b>t.</b> to disapprove of; to put down
21. scoff	***** <b>u.</b> to make a witty remark
22. stigmatize	***** <b>v.</b> regarded as worthless
23. umbrage	***** <b>w.</b> written or spoken attack
24. vilify	***** <b>x.</b> to mock

## LOCKED IN AN IVORY TOWER

Prince Siddhartha Gautama was the scion of a family of warrior kings in northern India. There was little philosophical **nuance** to his education; he was being indoctrinated for the time when he would assume his father's throne. The cruel realities of the world were **imperceptible** to the young prince. He could only **conjecture** about life outside his father's walls. Despite the army of servants who catered to his every whim and **deluded** him with fulsome praise, a **latent** spiritual hunger left him **dubious** about the life he was living. It wasn't until the prince was 30 that he took the first step toward becoming the Buddha, one of the world's greatest spiritual leaders.

1. One common practice of totalitarian states is \_\_\_\_\_ the masses with propaganda.
2. While the need for evidence is crucial, scientists should not be afraid of \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. A cool object that is warmer than its surroundings has \_\_\_\_\_ heat.
4. Impressionists studied the \_\_\_\_\_ of light and shadow playing upon a subject.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ prospect of ending poverty was dispelled by the Great Depression.
6. Even at supersonic speeds, the effects of time dilation are practically \_\_\_\_\_ .

7. nuance \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to mislead



8. imperceptible \_\_\_\_\_ b. hidden  
 9. conjecture \_\_\_\_\_ c. skeptical  
 10. delude \_\_\_\_\_ d. subtle detail; subtlety  
 11. latent \_\_\_\_\_ e. a guess or hypothesis  
 12. dubious \_\_\_\_\_ f. undetectable

### SIDDHARTHA'S EYES ARE OPENED

One day, Siddhartha expressed his **dormant** desire to ride out among his people. He was profoundly **disabused** by the misery, destitution, and disease with which his people were afflicted. **Inscrutable** in his designs, he retired to his room to ponder over what he had seen. Lost in contemplation, he remained **reticent** for several days until the nature of his existence was no longer **opaque** to him. To Siddhartha, it would be a **euphemism** to say that his life had been privileged. He felt it had been sinfully decadent, and he was determined to make amends.

1. As cataracts form, the lenses of the eye become \_\_\_\_\_ to light.
2. A great poker player maintains an \_\_\_\_\_ face at all time.
3. "Corporate restructuring" is just a \_\_\_\_\_ for mass layoffs.
4. Many once \_\_\_\_\_ volcanoes have caused the worst destruction.
5. Family members of cult victims find it difficult to \_\_\_\_\_ their loved ones.
6. On his deathbed, the gangster, Arnold Rothstein, remained \_\_\_\_\_ about the identity of the rival who fatally shot him.

7. dormant \_\_\_\_\_ a. immune to understanding  
 8. disabused \_\_\_\_\_ b. not transparent  
 9. inscrutable \_\_\_\_\_ c. inactive  
 10. reticent \_\_\_\_\_ d. a kind phrase that conceals darker truth  
 11. opaque \_\_\_\_\_ e. to convince someone a belief is false  
 12. euphemism \_\_\_\_\_ f. quiet

### THE ENLIGHTENED ONE

Siddhartha's **ostensible** plan was simple. First, he would exchange his sumptuous garments for a more **discreet** monk's robe. Then, he would cleanse himself of his

previous life by becoming an ascetic. Finally, he would study **esoteric** Hindu wisdom in order to be prepared to help his suffering people. After six years of **circuitous** wandering and attracting only a handful of disciples, Siddhartha came to a huge tree near the Indian city of Gaya. For seven weeks, he sat **furtively** beneath its branches, seeking an answer for his personal torment. Finally, it is said, he underwent a metamorphosis, piercing the **nebulous** veil of common understanding to become the Enlightened One—the Buddha.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ glance gave the would-be assassin away.
2. Red dwarf stars, while large, are also \_\_\_\_\_ in appearance.
3. A public figure can always benefit from the counsel of a \_\_\_\_\_ publicist.
4. The state trooper's \_\_\_\_\_ reason for the traffic stop was a taillight violation.
5. Football has a highly \_\_\_\_\_ language that only former players really understand.
6. Newton's writing was so dense and \_\_\_\_\_ that it required Edmund Halley to translate and publicize the brilliant ideas captured in the Principia.

- |                |       |   |
|----------------|-------|---|
| 7. ostensible  | _____ | a. winding and indirect                               |
| 8. discreet    | _____ | b. official or overt, often concealing another intent |
| 9. esoteric    | _____ | c. hazy; undefined                                    |
| 10. circuitous | _____ | d. careful; showing tact                              |
| 11. furtive    | _____ | e. hidden   |
| 12. nebulous   | _____ | f. obscure; technical                                 |

### LOVE OVER HATRED, GOODNESS OVER EVIL

Buddha rejected the **impenetrable** knowledge and **surreptitious** mysteries favored by many religious cults of the time. His vision was not **ambiguous** or open only to a **clandestine** elect. He outlined three paths that men might travel. The first two—worldly pleasure and self-torment—each had their allure but were of **specious** spiritual value. Only through a middle path between these extremes could man achieve peace and salvation. One had to repudiate materialism, keep self-control, reject selfish drives, and nurture goodness. Through good deeds and pure thoughts,

man may reach nirvana. Interestingly enough, the man who was **reputed** to object to traditional religious worship was to become idolized by millions throughout the world.

1. In battle, an \_\_\_\_\_ plan is a recipe for disaster.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ activities of Cold War intelligence agencies were fascinating.
3. Although he was often called a “butcher,” General Grant was \_\_\_\_\_ to hate the sight of blood.
4. The job ad, which only spoke of great perks, seemed highly \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. \_\_\_\_\_ hazing rituals, now exposed, are widely banned.
6. The monks were troves of \_\_\_\_\_ knowledge, but they lacked worldly experience.

7. impenetrable \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** hidden to avoid penalty
8. surreptitious \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** believed to be
9. ambiguous \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** obscure; not well known
10. clandestine \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** of questionable authenticity
11. specious \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** secretive
12. reputed \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** unclear

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |                |   |
|----------------|---|
| 1. ambiguous   | ***** <b>a.</b> a kind phrase that conceals darker truth  |
| 2. circuitous  | ***** <b>b.</b> official, often concealing another intent |
| 3. clandestine | ***** <b>c.</b> subtle detail; subtlety                   |
| 4. conjecture  | ***** <b>d.</b> careful; showing tact                     |
| 5. delude      | ***** <b>e.</b> undetectable                              |
| 6. disabuse    | ***** <b>f.</b> skeptical                                 |
| 7. discreet    | ***** <b>g.</b> immune to understanding                   |
| 8. dormant     | ***** <b>h.</b> a guess or hypothesis                     |
| 9. dubious     | ***** <b>i.</b> inactive                                  |
| 10. esoteric   | ***** <b>j.</b> of questionable authenticity              |
| 11. euphemism  | ***** <b>k.</b> obscure; not well known                   |

12. furtive \*\*\*\*\* l. quiet
13. impenetrable \*\*\*\*\* m. hidden to avoid penalty
14. imperceptible \*\*\*\*\* n. to convince someone a belief is false
15. inscrutable \*\*\*\*\* o. secretive
16. latent \*\*\*\*\* p. winding and indirect
17. nebulous \*\*\*\*\* q. believed to be
18. nuance \*\*\*\*\* r. hazy; undefined
19. opaque \*\*\*\*\* s. unclear
20. ostensible \*\*\*\*\* t. hidden (1)
21. reputed \*\*\*\*\* u. obscure; technical
22. reticent \*\*\*\*\* v. not transparent
23. specious \*\*\*\*\* w. hidden (2)
24. surreptitious \*\*\*\*\* x. to mislead

## HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

A common screed that seems to garner attention on digital media holds that smart phone usage is to blame for increasing levels of social *apathy*. The general formula goes like this: while work has long been *drudgery*, human beings are uplifted by connecting with strangers on their journeys through public space. We have become increasingly *aloof* now that we can hide behind screens. The socially *lethargic* never have to raise their eyes or ask the time with their *timorous* voices. Call me *cynical*, but I think it's hilarious reading these polemics on my phone.

1. Acting superior and \_\_\_\_\_ at parties is usually a sign of insecurity.
2. Only a \_\_\_\_\_ person would order a veggie burger with bacon.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the masses is the greatest barrier to meaningful reform.
4. Mary felt so \_\_\_\_\_ that she didn't leave her couch all day.
5. Most soldiers during the Great War preferred the danger of combat to the \_\_\_\_\_
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ attitude precludes the creativity needed to solve tough problems.

7. apathy \_\_\_\_\_ a. lacking energy  
8. drudgery \_\_\_\_\_ b. skeptical of human nature  
9. aloof \_\_\_\_\_ c. fearful  
10. lethargic \_\_\_\_\_ d. lack of concern; indifference  
11. timorous \_\_\_\_\_ e. unapproachable  
12. cynical \_\_\_\_\_ f. tedious work

## DOWN IN A HOLE

Depression is often mischaracterized as an extremity of sadness. Anguish is a healthy response to tragedies like losing a spouse or a terminal diagnosis, however. The depressed tend to experience **stupor**, not sadness, their daily existence is plagued by unrelenting **lassitude**. Once-fulfilling activities are sapped of their pleasure. Sufferers can become **lax** about dressing and hygiene, giving them an **unkempt** appearance, regardless of their past habits. This **inhibition** ultimately worsens to the point that anything but a **sedentary** lifestyle seems impossible.

1. An \_\_\_\_\_ job applicant typically lacks a sense of professionalism.  
2. The morphine given to the patient brought about a merciful \_\_\_\_\_.  
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle can lead to dangerous blood clotting.  
4. The children of \_\_\_\_\_ parents often crave structure.  
5. After recovering from a stroke, Mr. Chang acquired a certain \_\_\_\_\_.  
6. Some people's \_\_\_\_\_ runs so deep that dancing seems alien and terrifying.

7. stupor \_\_\_\_\_ a. weariness  
8. lassitude \_\_\_\_\_ b. internal restraint on action or expression  
9. lax \_\_\_\_\_ c. characterized by immobility  
10. unkempt \_\_\_\_\_ d. loosely regulated  
11. inhibition \_\_\_\_\_ e. a state of numbness or insensibility  
12. sedentary \_\_\_\_\_ f. messy; uncared for

Neurotransmitters act on our mood and energy levels. While pleasurable goals, like eating, are self-rewarding, others—like winning, learning, and social bonding—are not. To reinforce behaviors that help us achieve such goals the brain releases dopamine, which causes feelings of arousal—like the **taut** focus of a cat hunting prey. Without dopamine, life can feel unbearably **banal**, but constant arousal leaves one **tremulous**. Contentment is a feeling of **imperturbable** security that comes from having one's needs met—like a purring cat on your lap. Serotonin promotes feelings of contentment in response to productive activities like exercise, sleep, and eating. Depression correlates with low neurotransmitter levels, creating a positive-feedback loop. This leaves sufferers feeling **phlegmatic** and **indifferent** to activities that normally stimulate them.

1. Wealthy children can find a life free from economic anxiety \_\_\_\_\_ and dull.
2. Only in dangerous situations do some otherwise \_\_\_\_\_ people feel truly alive.
3. As Ortiz awaited Rivera's pitch, the atmosphere was \_\_\_\_\_ with excitement.
4. The witness described the robbery with a \_\_\_\_\_ voice.
5. Some people are utterly \_\_\_\_\_ to the suffering of others.
6. Dr. Torres felt herself completely \_\_\_\_\_ during surgery.

- |                   |       |                       |
|-------------------|-------|-----------------------|
| 7. taut           | _____ | a. obvious and dull   |
| 8. banal          | _____ | b. lacking energy     |
| 9. tremulous      | _____ | c. uncaring           |
| 10. imperturbable | _____ | d. tense; poised      |
| 11. phlegmatic    | _____ | e. filled with fear   |
| 12. indifferent   | _____ | f. calm and confident |

## CHEMICAL INTERVENTION

The belief that luminaries like Jean-Michel Basquiat or Annie Leibowitz came out of the womb making great art is enough to make **fretful** aspiring artists so **squeamish** that they drop their brushes and run at the first setback. Great artists only become that way by honing their craft exhaustively. Someone with a bit of creative flair but a

**languid** disposition will naturally have a **lackluster** career. Avoiding a **blasé** attitude and laboring at a profession diligently is essential. So is the intestinal fortitude to not allow setback and failure to **stunt** one's development.

1. Many hall-of-fame caliber athletes have had \_\_\_\_\_ playoff performances.
2. At tree line, conifers have the \_\_\_\_\_ appearance of shrubs.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ doctor has no future working with sick or injured patients.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Field Marshal von Moltke failed to make the adjustments that could have saved the German army's campaign in 1914.
5. It sounds sophomoric and artificial to be so \_\_\_\_\_ at such a young age.
6. My aunt is so \_\_\_\_\_ that she must be sedated before flying.

7. fretful \_\_\_\_\_ a. bored; jaded
8. squeamish \_\_\_\_\_ b. dull; unimpressive
9. languid \_\_\_\_\_ c. lacking energy; listless
10. lackluster \_\_\_\_\_ d. to impede; to inhibit
11. blasé \_\_\_\_\_ e. worrisome
12. stunt \_\_\_\_\_ f. easily affected by unpleasantness

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. aloof \*\*\*\*\* a. internal restraint on action or expression
2. apathy \*\*\*\*\* b. lacking energy (1)
3. banal \*\*\*\*\* c. worrisome
4. blasé \*\*\*\*\* d. unapproachable
5. cynical \*\*\*\*\* e. easily affected by unpleasantness
6. drudgery \*\*\*\*\* f. messy; uncared for
7. fretful \*\*\*\*\* g. obvious and dull
8. imperturbable \*\*\*\*\* h. lacking energy (2)
9. indifferent \*\*\*\*\* i. a state of numbness or insensibility
10. inhibition \*\*\*\*\* j. fearful
11. lackluster \*\*\*\*\* k. lack of concern; indifference
12. languid \*\*\*\*\* l. uncaring

13. lassitude	***** m. dull; unimpressive
14. lax	***** n. tense; poised
15. lethargic	***** o. weariness
16. phlegmatic	***** p. filled with fear
17. sedentary	***** q. characterized by immobility
18. squeamish	***** r. loosely regulated
19. stunt	***** s. bored; jaded
20. stupor	***** t. lacking energy; listless
21. taut	***** u. calm and confident
22. timorous	***** v. to impede; to inhibit
23. tremulous	***** w. skeptical of human nature
24. unkempt	***** x. tedious work

### FROM A TO Z

Ellis Sloane, a science teacher at a large metropolitan high school, thought it curious that his two biology classes were so disparate in their performance. In most schools, classes are alphabetically *arbitrary*, with names running the gamut from Adams to Zilch. This happens largely because of *vicissitudes* of group dynamics: in the *interim* between school years, teachers discuss combinations that *agitate* poor behavior and split them up to prevent undue *ferment*. Sloane's classes, however, had simply been split up by name. Biology 121 had the A–M students and Biology 128 had N–Z. Sloane noticed other differences: while their reading scores and IQs were roughly analogous, Biology 128 was replete with *desultory* students, while Biology 121, in the main, was not. He had unwittingly stumbled upon a sociological principle.

1. After noticing its \_\_\_\_\_ drifting, mariners found the Mary Celeste abandoned.
2. The Boston Massacre occurred because the \_\_\_\_\_ of a mob became unstable.
3. Remember, to those living at the time, the 1920s was not an \_\_\_\_\_ between World Wars but a postwar period.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the president's mood could be wildly unpredictable.
5. Frederick Douglass \_\_\_\_\_ as hard for equality as he had done for



abolitionism.

6. The name tank was an \_\_\_\_\_ epithet to keep its development a military secret.

7. arbitrary \_\_\_\_\_ a. aimless

8. vicissitudes \_\_\_\_\_ b. anger; discontent

9. interim \_\_\_\_\_ c. to stir up

10. agitate \_\_\_\_\_ d. sudden changes

11. ferment \_\_\_\_\_ e. based on random choice

12. desultory \_\_\_\_\_ f. time in between events

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

At first Mr. Sloane regarded the conjecture that last name correlated with academic performance as **tenuous**, at best. He realized that the **capricious** assortment of students in his two classes might have produced a greater concentration of temperamentally **inert** or **vacillating** students in Biology 128 by chance. Then he discovered the work of Dr. Trevor Weston of the British Medical Association. Dr. Weston found that people whose names began with letters ranging from S–Z lived an average of 12 years less than the rest of the population and more frequently suffered from stress-related maladies. **Whimsical** or not, “alphabetical predestiny” was no laughing matter and Sloane felt he would be **derelect** in his role as an educator to ignore it further.

1. The noble gases, which bond with nothing, are chemically \_\_\_\_\_ .

2. The moments that bring couples together often have a \_\_\_\_\_ quality.

3. A court martial decided the fate of the \_\_\_\_\_ soldier who slept on guard duty.

4. An intelligent commander who \_\_\_\_\_ can be defeated by a decisive foe.

5. The truce was so \_\_\_\_\_ that neither army demobilized.

6. To be truly great, an artist must embrace the \_\_\_\_\_ side of her creativity.

7. tenuous \_\_\_\_\_ a. to waver in one's views

8. capricious \_\_\_\_\_ b. weak or fragile

9. inert \_\_\_\_\_ c. abandoned; negligent  
10. vacillate \_\_\_\_\_ d. spontaneous; carefree  
11. whimsical \_\_\_\_\_ e. lacking will or energy  
12. derelict \_\_\_\_\_ f. unpredictable

## THE PERILS OF THE ALPHABET

Dr. Weston is convinced that teachers are responsible. Since teachers often seat their pupils in alphabetical order, the S to Z child is usually the last to receive his test marks, the last to give a presentation—frustrated because what she had to say has already been said. School age children are highly *malleable* in their personality and self-esteem. Constant waiting causes many in this group to become *mercurial*, even *volatile* in temperament. Others consider themselves inferior to those at the top of the alphabet. Of course, the good doctor suggests *amnesty* for our educators. Teachers work very hard, and their mistake has been an honest one. It is, instead, the tyranny of the alphabetical system that must be *jettisoned*. Teachers need to *extemporize* when seating and calling upon students.

1. Woodes Rogers ended piracy in the Bahamas with \_\_\_\_\_, not war.
2. Marzipan is \_\_\_\_\_ enough to form candies of any shape.
3. The failing conglomerate \_\_\_\_\_ unsuccessful divisions to save money.
4. Freestyle hip-hop requires creativity and the ability to \_\_\_\_\_ rhymes on the fly.
5. Many nitrates are highly \_\_\_\_\_ compounds that require great care.
6. Gaston, while a great chef, is far too \_\_\_\_\_ for the business of running a restaurant to hold his interest.

7. malleable \_\_\_\_\_ a. quickly changing  
8. mercurial \_\_\_\_\_ b. able to be molded  
9. volatile \_\_\_\_\_ c. to improvise  
10. amnesty \_\_\_\_\_ d. unstable  
11. jettison \_\_\_\_\_ e. a pardon  
12. extemporize \_\_\_\_\_ f. to abandon

## IN THE NATURE OF EDUCATIONAL REFORM

Mr. Sloane underwent a **metamorphosis**. He began with a **provisional** system of reversing the seating in his classes. The grades of students in Biology 128 stopped **fluctuating** within a month. Worried this might be a **transient** development, he felt vindicated after a semester, so he badgered the school administration to bring about such changes throughout the building. He addressed the concern that the new system simply shifted the burden to different students. Sloane argued that reverse seating was an **ephemeral** but necessary measure to neutralize the catastrophic effects of years of the traditional policy. The adoption of non-alphabetic seating in elementary school would make reverse seating an **evanescent** step on the way to uniformly well-adjusted students.

1. Weather \_\_\_\_\_, while climate has more stable patterns.
2. Jefferson cautioned against revolution for \_\_\_\_\_ reasons.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ instant of “daylight” when lightning strikes at night is thrilling.
4. Both parts of Henry IV really deal with Prince Hal’s \_\_\_\_\_ from hard-drinking ruffian to the future king, Henry V.
5. The era of the battleship was far more \_\_\_\_\_ than any admiral predicted; brand new in 1914, battleships were mere targets for submarines and carrier planes by 1941.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ Kerensky government was overthrown by Bolsheviks within months.

- |                  |       |                                   |
|------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 7. metamorphosis | _____ | a. to rise and fall unpredictably |
| 8. provisional   | _____ | b. quickly forgotten              |
| 9. fluctuate     | _____ | c. impermanent                    |
| 10. transient    | _____ | d. very brief                     |
| 11. ephemeral    | _____ | e. temporary                      |
| 12. evanescent   | _____ | f. a significant change in form   |

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |            |       |                           |
|------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 1. agitate | ***** | a. lacking will or energy |
|------------|-------|---------------------------|

2. amnesty	***** b. to improvise
3. arbitrary	***** c. abandoned; negligent
4. capricious	***** d. to rise and fall unpredictably
5. derelict	***** e. able to be molded
6. desultory	***** f. impermanent
7. ephemeral	***** g. anger; discontent
8. evanescent	***** h. quickly changing
9. extemporize	***** i. sudden changes
10. ferment	***** j. a significant change in form
11. fluctuate	***** k. time in between events
12. inert	***** l. unstable
13. interim	***** m. quickly forgotten
14. jettison	***** n. to abandon
15. malleable	***** o. unpredictable
16. mercurial	***** p. very brief
17. metamorphosis	***** q. to waver in one's views
18. provisional	***** r. based on random choice
19. tenuous	***** s. aimless
20. transient	***** t. spontaneous; carefree
21. vacillate	***** u. temporary
22. vicissitudes	***** v. weak or fragile
23. volatile	***** w. to stir up
24. whimsical	***** x. a pardon

## ROMAN RELIGIOSITY

The ancient Romans believed in a ***pantheon*** of major gods and minor deities. They ***venerated*** pre-Roman deities of Italian origin such as Dis Pater and Bona Dea and Gods adapted from the Greeks, such as Jupiter, Venus, and Mars (counterparts of Zeus, Aphrodite, and Ares). Over time, the Romans added deities whose ***adherents*** they conquered. Sometimes mystery cults from faraway lands would find new ***proselytes*** in Rome, such as the cult of Sol Invictus, the unconquered sun. As the

Republic gave way to the Empire, the emperors themselves were also **deified**, notably Julius and Augustus Caesar. The “divine Augustus” and even his wife, Livia Augusta, had their own temples and **devout** followers.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Quaker religion forsake violence and abstain from wars.
2. Monument Park at Yankee Stadium represents a \_\_\_\_\_ of some of the greatest baseball players in the history of the game.
3. The truly \_\_\_\_\_ tend to prefer private prayer to ostentatious displays of piety.
4. The artist known as Cat Stevens became a \_\_\_\_\_ of Islam after nearly drowning.
5. Many cultures \_\_\_\_\_ their elders and deceased ancestors.
6. It is unhealthy for society to \_\_\_\_\_ celebrities, many of whom lack modesty, virtue, and talent.

7. pantheon \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** someone converted to a belief
8. venerate \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** to treat someone as a god
9. adherent \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** to worship; to respect
10. proselyte \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** deeply committed to a faith
11. deify \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** a follower
12. devout \_\_\_\_\_

## RITES, RITUALS, AND SACRIFICES

Unlike the Greeks, whose religion was deeply influenced by the philosophies of thinkers like the **stoics** and Socratics, the Romans were more **dogmatic**, concerned with ritual and mystery. The **sacrosanct** Vestal Virgins—even touching one was a **taboo**—kept alight the sacred flame that the Romans believed ensured their security. The doors to the temple of Janus were opened when war was declared and closed with the return of peace. The **zealous** Romans also sacrificed animals, whose blood was intended as payment for answered prayers. A whole class of charlatans **duped** believers of their gold by overcharging for the performance of these rites.

1. Converts are often noted as more \_\_\_\_\_ than those born into a religious

group.

2. Before the 22nd Amendment, a third term as president was merely a

\_\_\_\_\_.

3. Because they can be easily \_\_\_\_\_, children can't legally sign contracts.

4. A professional athlete is expected to be a \_\_\_\_\_ in the face of losing.

5. To Muslims, the city of Mecca is considered \_\_\_\_\_ in its entirety.

6. A \_\_\_\_\_ belief in democracy can lull citizens into passivity in its defense.

7. stoic \_\_\_\_\_ a. full of enthusiasm

8. dogmatic \_\_\_\_\_ b. to trick

9. sacrosanct \_\_\_\_\_ c. one who doesn't show emotion

10. taboo \_\_\_\_\_ d. regarding beliefs as not open to question

11. zealous \_\_\_\_\_ e. custom forbidding a particular practice

12. dupe \_\_\_\_\_ f. of utmost sanctity or importance

## MONOTHEISTIC COMPETITION

Rome's tendency to adopt aspects of new faiths they found appealing while exporting the worship of their own gods encouraged **ardent** believers of other faiths to feel invested in the Roman Empire. Rome's relationship with Judaism, however, proved an irreconcilable **schism**. **Staunch** monotheists, the Jews would not adopt Roman deities and rejected as **idolatry** the presence of statues of the emperors in Jewish temples. The Jews were also accustomed to a much more **ascetic** lifestyle and declaimed against Roman cultural practices they saw as **hedonistic**.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of 1054 split the Catholic and Orthodox branches of Christianity.

2. Because \_\_\_\_\_ former Dodgers and Giants fans could not embrace the Yankees, the Mets were created.

3. Some adopt an \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle for spiritual reasons, others for health purposes.

4. Medieval Islamic art made use of geometric patterns because many clerics considered the depiction of living figures to be \_\_\_\_\_.

5. While disciples of Apollo prized reason, acolytes of Dionysus celebrated

\_\_\_\_\_ .  
6. Many \_\_\_\_\_ believers adopt a monastic life of prayer and service.

7. ardent \_\_\_\_\_ a. the worship of objects, usually images of a deity

8. schism \_\_\_\_\_ b. characterized by avoidance of comfort or pleasure

9. staunch \_\_\_\_\_ c. a philosophy or lifestyle devoted to pleasure

10. idolatry \_\_\_\_\_ d. passionately committed

11. ascetic \_\_\_\_\_ e. a rift caused by a disagreement on principles

12. hedonism \_\_\_\_\_ f. dedicated

### FROM MARTYRS TO MASTERS

During Rome's rise, it was **canon** that the republican system was divine and eternal. By the third century, although few had openly **recanted** this **credo**, none believed it. The emperor had usurped the powers of the Senate. Slavery had ruined the plebes. It's not surprising, then, that average Romans became **agnostic** toward the old religion and receptive to Christianity's promises of salvation. Attempts to stamp out the new faith only created **martyrs** that strengthened Christian **fervor**. The deathbed conversion of Constantine the Great signaled the end for the old ways.

1. Despite quantum theory's often bizarre findings, few physicists are still quantum

2. Secessionist \_\_\_\_\_ after Lincoln's election was strongest in South Carolina.

3. Punting on fourth and long is a rarely questioned precept of football

\_\_\_\_\_ .

4. Galileo, faced with death, \_\_\_\_\_ heliocentrism.

5. Thomas More became a \_\_\_\_\_ after refusing to acknowledge Henry VIII's supremacy over religious affairs in England.

6. Facebook has come under fire for its \_\_\_\_\_ : "Move fast and break things."

7. canon \_\_\_\_\_ a. deep commitment

8. recant \_\_\_\_\_ b. someone who is killed for a belief

9. credo \_\_\_\_\_

**10.** agnostic \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to publicly withdraw a statement of belief

**11.** martyr \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** a belief; a statement of belief

**12.** fervor \_\_\_\_\_

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

**1.** adherent \*\*\*\*\* **a.** a collection of gods or highly respected figures

**2.** agnostic \*\*\*\*\* **b.** of utmost sanctity or importance

**3.** ardent \*\*\*\*\* **c.** passionately committed

**4.** ascetic \*\*\*\*\* **d.** to treat someone as a god

**5.** canon \*\*\*\*\* **e.** dedicated

**6.** credo \*\*\*\*\* **f.** deeply committed to a faith

**7.** deify \*\*\*\*\* **g.** a follower

**8.** devout \*\*\*\*\* **h.** someone who is killed for a belief

**9.** dogmatic \*\*\*\*\* **i.** characterized by avoidance of comfort or pleasure

**10.** dupe \*\*\*\*\* **j.** a rift caused by a disagreement on principles

**11.** fervor \*\*\*\*\* **k.** to publicly withdraw a statement of belief

**12.** hedonism \*\*\*\*\* **l.** full of enthusiasm

**13.** idolatry \*\*\*\*\* **m.** deep commitment

**14.** martyr \*\*\*\*\* **n.** one who doesn't show emotion

**15.** pantheon \*\*\*\*\* **o.** a belief; a statement of belief

**16.** proselyte \*\*\*\*\* **p.** custom forbidding a particular practice

**17.** recant \*\*\*\*\* **q.** a generally accepted set of principles, rules, or facts

**18.** sacrosanct \*\*\*\*\* **r.** a philosophy or lifestyle devoted to pleasure

**19.** schism \*\*\*\*\* **s.** to trick

**20.** staunch \*\*\*\*\* **t.** regarding beliefs as not open to question

**21.** stoic \*\*\*\*\* **u.** someone converted to a belief

**22.** taboo \*\*\*\*\* **v.** believer that the truth of a disputed matter is unknowable;  
**w.** skeptic

**23.** venerate \*\*\*\*\* **w.** to worship; to respect

**24.** zealous \*\*\*\*\* **x.** the worship of objects, usually images of a deity



## THE END OF INNOCENCE

Read the literature of the 1890s, and you will be painfully aware of a significant **rift** between the worldview of that time and our own. The fin-de- siècle self-assuredness that marks works by H. G. Wells, Oscar Wilde, and even Bram Stoker has been **eradicated**. Few living at the end of the nineteenth century believed that **strife** had been **nullified**, but there was a tacit belief that the march of human progress had permanently gained the upper hand against the forces of chaos. The **gauntlet** of the twentieth century would quickly disabuse people of such notions. In one **fractious** century, people learned that the wonders of our imaginations could become the stuff of nightmares.

1. The Mercury 7 astronauts were put through a \_\_\_\_\_ of difficult tests.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ atmosphere in Paris grew lethal when war came in 1792.
3. It's natural for children of divorce to wish away the \_\_\_\_\_ between parents.
4. Smallpox was the first human scourge \_\_\_\_\_ by vaccination.
5. During the 1830s, some Southern states asserted the right to \_\_\_\_\_ federal laws.
6. Henry VI, a weak and languid monarch, presided over decades of \_\_\_\_\_ before he was finally deposed.

7. rift \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** a series of challenges
8. eradicate \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** to cancel out
9. strife \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** unruly; rebellious
10. nullify \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to completely remove
11. gauntlet \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** unrest; anger
12. fractious \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** physical gap; estrangement

## SANS CULOTTES

When Louis XIV proclaimed, "I am the state," he summed up the relationship between monarch and commoner that had existed in much of the world since the fall of Rome. Within a matter of decades, however, philosophers like Locke, Rousseau, and Voltaire had the temerity to suggest that government exists to safeguard the

people's rights and yet the commoners were instead **fettered** by a feudal system that **impeded** the progress and prosperity of society. The opening **skirmish** came in America, where the unruly colonists **wrested** control over their affairs. France entered the **fray** in 1789 when representatives of the Third Estate declared that the common folk were the state now. Unlike in America, however, the statesmen did not have the final say. The lowest French classes, called "sans culottes" because they did not wear the knee-breeches of the rich, were in an **inclement** mood and would not be placated with a few legal reforms.

1. Scrooge asked Jacob Marley why he was \_\_\_\_\_ by heavy chains.
2. Romeo is banished after the \_\_\_\_\_ that claims the lives of Mercutio and Tybalt.
3. Heavy fines are assessed on those who \_\_\_\_\_ traffic by "blocking the box."
4. \_\_\_\_\_ between police and protestors flared up all night.
5. The referees postponed the game due to \_\_\_\_\_ weather.
6. I don't know how I \_\_\_\_\_ the remote control from my big brother.

- |               |       |  |
|---------------|-------|--|
| 7. fetter     | _____ | a. a small clash with few casualties             |
| 8. impede     | _____ | b. a fight                                       |
| 9. skirmish   | _____ | c. to physically burden or restrain              |
| 10. wrest     | _____ | d. merciless; immoderate                         |
| 11. fray      | _____ | e. to block or inhibit the progress of something |
| 12. inclement | _____ | f. to seize                                      |

### PANDORA'S BOX

In 1792, the monarchies of Europe, seeking to **deter** revolt in their own lands, marched on France to end the **fracas**. The invaders publicly vowed to restore Louis XVI to his full powers and to crush all further revolutionary dissent. This manifesto had a far more deleterious effect than any royalist could have imagined. To the immediate detriment of their cause, the defiant French imprisoned the king and abolished the monarchy. More importantly, the people, from merchants to peasant farmers, rose up en masse to fight. Within months, a motley army of raw recruits and

career soldiers halted the invasion. In the immediate aftermath, the political situation in Europe was greatly **exacerbated**. In the long term, by swamping the professional armies of their enemies, which fought only for gold, the French showed the world the raw power of nationalism for the first time. To this day, we live with the consequences of 1792.

1. Selfish, individual performers can be a \_\_\_\_\_ to the chemistry of any team.
2. The strain of the war greatly \_\_\_\_\_ Roosevelt's heart condition.
3. A talented writer need not be \_\_\_\_\_ by the lack of a university education.
4. A scandal is highly \_\_\_\_\_ to the public image of any company.
5. A midnight \_\_\_\_\_ on the streets below won't even wake most city dwellers.
6. When Supreme Court justices oppose the will of the majority, they are free to explain their

7. deter \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** a loud disturbance
8. fracas \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** general disagreement
9. dissent \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** to worsen
10. deleterious \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to discourage
11. detriment \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** harmful
12. exacerbate \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** that which causes damage

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. conflagration \*\*\*\*\* **a.** to wipe out utterly
2. deleterious \*\*\*\*\* **b.** a fight
3. deluge \*\*\*\*\* **c.** chaos; destruction
4. deter \*\*\*\*\* **d.** to cancel out
5. detriment \*\*\*\*\* **e.** that which causes damage
6. dissent \*\*\*\*\* **f.** a large flood
7. eradicate \*\*\*\*\* **g.** a small clash with few casualties
8. exacerbate \*\*\*\*\* **h.** general disagreement

9. fetter	***** i. rebellious
10. fracas	***** j. to discourage
11. fractious	***** k. merciless; immoderate
12. fray	***** l. to leave nothing standing
13. gauntlet	***** m. a loud disturbance
14. havoc	***** n. harmful
15. impede	***** o. to worsen
16. inclement	***** p. to physically burden or restrain
17. insurgent	***** q. unrest; anger
18. nullify	***** r. to block or inhibit the progress of something
19. obliterate	***** s. physical gap; estrangement
20. raze	***** t. to completely remove
21. rift	***** u. a massive fire
22. skirmish	***** v. unruly; rebellious
23. strife	***** w. to seize
24. wrest	***** x. a series of challenges

## THE FIRST CELEBRITY IN HISTORY

A 5,000-year-old tablet found in Iraq bears the inscription “29,086 measures barley 37 months *Kushim*.” This prosaic record is an *epistle* from the first person to conquer oblivion: Kushim is the first person—ever—whose name we know. As much as the works of Shakespeare, this *succinct missive* underscores the awesome power of writing. Humans have left behind *vestiges* of our existence for perhaps 100,000 years. Vibrant cave paintings of charging beasts made 17,000 years ago *attest* to our creativity. The flowers and shell necklaces unearthed in prehistoric graves are enduring *eulogies* that demonstrate one of our most profound human values. Our prehistoric ancestors were clearly like us, but not until Kushim’s tablet did they learn to speak to us directly.

1. The line outside the door \_\_\_\_\_ to the quality of the diner’s breakfast options.
2. The cost per additional word made telegrams a \_\_\_\_\_ form of

communication.

3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of St. Paul, named for their recipients, comprise a substantial portion of the New Testament.

4. Ted Kennedy's quavering voice gave his \_\_\_\_\_ for RFK incredible poignance.

5. \_\_\_\_\_ of the last ice age can be found in boulders strewn throughout the north.

6. Many celebrities have ruined their careers with ill-considered \_\_\_\_\_ on Twitter.

7. epistle \_\_\_\_\_ a. to bear witness

8. succinct \_\_\_\_\_ b. a formal letter

9. missive \_\_\_\_\_ c. a tribute, often for someone who has died

10. vestige \_\_\_\_\_ d. to the point

11. attest \_\_\_\_\_ e. a short, often informal communication

12. eulogy \_\_\_\_\_ f. a remnant

## COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Before writing, knowledge **reverberated** through generations orally. There are important differences between oral and written histories. Given the limitations of memory, oral histories recount great events rather than personal **anecdotes** or **memoirs**. Similarly, a simple but dramatic style of storytelling distinguishes oral history from **prolix** academic writing. Despite these differences, oral history is crucial to historiography. Native Americans, for example, provide an oral record of the waves of diseases and migrating herds of horses that were outriders of European arrival in the New World. This knowledge was passed down so reliably that twentieth-century researchers were able to construct a historical counter-narrative to the prevailing **discourse** of the time, which either ignored Native Americans or **libeled** them.

1. Isaac Newton's writing was so \_\_\_\_\_ and abstruse that it took the charm of Edmund Halley to promote the brilliance of Newton's work.

2. Royalties from Grant's \_\_\_\_\_, written while he was dying, supported his

widow.

3. Oscar Wilde's suit for \_\_\_\_\_ proved disastrous when proof of his private conduct was revealed in court.
4. Political \_\_\_\_\_ used to only deal with the public character of politicians.
5. Winston Churchill was famous for humorous \_\_\_\_\_ from his storied career.
6. The courage of the Spartans at Thermopylae has \_\_\_\_\_ for millennia.
7. reverberate \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** public debate or discussion
8. anecdote \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** wordy and convoluted
9. memoir \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** false written attack on one's character
10. prolix \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to echo through time
11. discourse \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** an account based on experience
12. libel \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** a personal story of a minor event

## FROM BUSINESS TO BILL OF RIGHTS

That Kushim's famed tablet dealt with accounting matters was not coincidental. Though writing would give rise to countless **encomiums** on the beauty of nature, **treatises** on religion, or **manifestos** on human rights, the first order of business was business. Thus, the first **glyphs** represented numbers. Then followed pictographs; images of birds, women, or wheat that were meant literally. The pivotal breakthrough would be the usage of symbols to represent sounds, like pictures of a honeybee and a safe expressing the command "Be Safe!" The French linguist who **deciphered** Egyptian hieroglyphics was only able to do so by recognizing that the Egyptian **scribes** had used symbols this way.

1. Linear A, a script that was written in either direction, has never been \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Native Americans of the Southwest left ornate \_\_\_\_\_ on rocks.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ was a position of importance in mostly illiterate societies.
4. Rudolph Hess's saccharin \_\_\_\_\_ about Hitler demonstrated worshipful devotion.
5. Karl Marx wrote perhaps the most controversial and notorious \_\_\_\_\_ in

history.

6. Mahan's \_\_\_\_\_ on the role of sea power influenced most European admiralties.

7. encomium \_\_\_\_\_ a. a writer or keeper of records

8. treatise \_\_\_\_\_ b. a carved symbol

9. manifesto \_\_\_\_\_ c. to interpret symbols or a code

10. glyph \_\_\_\_\_ d. a formal essay on a topic

11. decipher \_\_\_\_\_ e. an expression of political beliefs or goals

12. scribe \_\_\_\_\_ f. an expression of praise

### A NATION OF LAWS

The **expository** nature of the Declaration of Independence mirrors the values of a world reevaluating the roles of sovereign and people. Jefferson expressed the idea that government exists to protect human rights; should it neglect this duty, it ought to be **relegated** to oblivion. What follows is a **citation** of the offenses of George III and the pronouncement of American independence on that basis. Though Jefferson deserves his **accolades** and the **epithet** "The Sage of Monticello," the miracle of America's founding lies in its establishment according to clear principles expressed in writing in the Declaration and in the **preamble** of the Constitution.

1. Diego found that writing proper \_\_\_\_\_ took longer than writing the paper itself.

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ after Lincoln's death contrasted the polemics he suffered in life.

3. Babe Ruth's \_\_\_\_\_ came from his cherubic appearance at the time of his debut.

4. Jill could tell from the stilted \_\_\_\_\_ of the letter that she was being laid off.

5. Woodward's \_\_\_\_\_ works have revealed the flaws of many presidencies.

6. After abdicating, Edward VIII was \_\_\_\_\_ to an entirely ceremonial role.

7. expository \_\_\_\_\_ a. quote or reference

8. relegate \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** nickname
9. citation \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** examining critically
10. accolade \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** opening statements
11. epithet \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to demote
12. preamble \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** statement of praise

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. accolade \*\*\*\*\* **a.** a personal story of a minor event
2. anecdote \*\*\*\*\* **b.** a tribute, often for someone who has died
3. attest \*\*\*\*\* **c.** a carved symbol
4. citation \*\*\*\*\* **d.** wordy and convoluted
5. decipher \*\*\*\*\* **e.** a quote or reference
6. discourse \*\*\*\*\* **f.** to echo through time
7. encomium \*\*\*\*\* **g.** an account based on experience
8. epistle \*\*\*\*\* **h.** a writer or keeper of records
9. epithet \*\*\*\*\* **i.** a formal essay on a topic
10. eulogy \*\*\*\*\* **j.** a false written attack on one's character
11. expository \*\*\*\*\* **k.** an expression of political beliefs or goals
12. glyph \*\*\*\*\* **l.** a nickname
13. libel \*\*\*\*\* **m.** a short, often informal communication
14. manifesto \*\*\*\*\* **n.** to interpret symbols or a code
15. memoir \*\*\*\*\* **o.** to demote
16. missive \*\*\*\*\* **p.** a formal letter
17. preamble \*\*\*\*\* **q.** examining critically
18. prolix \*\*\*\*\* **r.** to the point
19. relegate \*\*\*\*\* **s.** a statement of praise
20. reverberate \*\*\*\*\* **t.** a remnant
21. scribe \*\*\*\*\* **u.** a public debate or discussion
22. succinct \*\*\*\*\* **v.** an opening statement
23. treatise \*\*\*\*\* **w.** to bear witness



## A MUSICAL WORLD

In the nineteenth century, every leading nation produced its share of great composers. There was an **alluring** array of national schools and musical styles to **entice** the once obscure musician to come into his own. At the beginning of the century, music lovers turned to **resplendent** Vienna, a city that still echoed with Mozart's **idyllic** melodies. However, many composers became **infatuated** with Paris, which excelled in operatic music. As the century progressed, Germany took center stage during the **incandescent** career of Ludwig van Beethoven.

1. Central Park presents the illusion of an \_\_\_\_\_ countryside in the heart of the city.
2. If metal is heated enough it becomes \_\_\_\_\_, giving off shades of red light.
3. Friar Laurence suspects that Romeo is merely \_\_\_\_\_ with Rosaline.
4. There's something \_\_\_\_\_ about the life of a writer.
5. The Empire State Building is a \_\_\_\_\_ beacon at night.
6. Software companies offer generous compensation to \_\_\_\_\_ talent from rivals.

- |                  |       |                                      |
|------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 7. alluring      | _____ | a. to tempt                          |
| 8. entice        | _____ | b. radiating light                   |
| 9. resplendent   | _____ | c. attractive                        |
| 10. idyllic      | _____ | d. temporarily fascinated by someone |
| 11. infatuated   | _____ | e. picturesque                       |
| 12. incandescent | _____ | f. colorful or luxurious             |

## A GIANT COMPOSER

Beethoven, like Mozart, started out as a child prodigy. Later, as a successful concert pianist, he became the talk of Europe. His **dapper** appearance, outfitted in the finest **raiment** but with disheveled hair, seemed the embodiment of genius. He tutored the children of many wealthy patrons and was nearly **betroted** to an Italian noblewoman. Despite superficial similarities, however, Beethoven was no Mozart: he

had an abusive father, was unlucky in love, and was secretly becoming deaf at a young age. Beethoven's brooding personality was reflected in his work, which shunned the **dulcet** melodies of Mozart's day. **Tantalized** by grand visions of music filled with the drama and passion of real life, he crafted symphonies that broke over audiences like thunderstorms. Those who preferred Mozart's light, airy **reveries** didn't like it, but for a new generation Beethoven represented the rebelliousness of the Romantic period.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the ultra-wealthy proclaims their elevated status.
  2. Megan had not expected her prom date to look so \_\_\_\_\_ in a tuxedo.
  3. Blanche DuBois's voice is meant to have the \_\_\_\_\_ quality of a Southern belle.
  4. Henry VIII's brother, Arthur, was initially \_\_\_\_\_ to Catherine of Aragon but died before they could be married.
  5. The train ride through the snowy forests of Romania was a winter \_\_\_\_\_ .
  6. Before Buckner's error, the 1986 Red Sox had been \_\_\_\_\_ by victory.
- 
7. dapper \_\_\_\_\_ a. sweet sounding; soothing
  8. raiment \_\_\_\_\_ b. to tease with something out of reach
  9. betrothed \_\_\_\_\_ c. a daydream
  10. dulcet \_\_\_\_\_ d. clothing
  11. tantalize \_\_\_\_\_ e. neat and handsome in appearance
  12. reverie \_\_\_\_\_ f. engaged or promised in marriage

### A TROUBLESOME LEGACY

German composer Richard Wagner is remembered for his operas, which had a dramatic, even **gaudy** quality. He placed great emphasis on visual **aesthetics**; in works like **Tristan and Isolde**, he sought to create an immersive experience through the use of **luminous** set designs and **comely** costumes. Wagner lived a chaotic life, marked by **amorous** affairs and bankruptcy. In death, he became an icon for German nationalists; Hitler was obsessed with Wagner's work for its **ethereal**, Romantic quality and use of elements drawn from Germanic mythology. It is unfair to hold this against the composer, however: Wagner died before Hitler was

even born and, as they did with Nietzsche, the Nazis interpreted his works in subjective ways that freely ignored elements that did not agree with their ideology.

1. The dapper Kennedy and his \_\_\_\_\_ young wife were a handsome pair.
2. Repelled by \_\_\_\_\_ displays of wealth, Charles V lived like a peasant.
3. Unrequited \_\_\_\_\_ desires have inspired many a sonnet and ode.
4. The Lighthouse of Alexandria was so \_\_\_\_\_ it could be seen 30 miles away.
5. The Brutalist \_\_\_\_\_ of communist architecture remains polarizing.
6. Dreams are never in HD but have an \_\_\_\_\_ quality.

7. gaudy \_\_\_\_\_ a. glowing
8. aesthetic \_\_\_\_\_ b. otherworldly
9. luminous \_\_\_\_\_ c. relating to desire
10. comely \_\_\_\_\_ d. related to the subject of beauty
11. amorous \_\_\_\_\_ e. pleasing to the eye
12. ethereal \_\_\_\_\_ f. ostentatious and ugly

## THE IMPRESSIONIST

Claude Debussy grew up in a France that found her position at the center of Europe usurped by the rise of Germany. As a composer, although he respected Wagner's operas as **sublime** visions, he felt their **limpid** aura of mysticism belonged to a past age. Debussy's music eschewed sentimentality in favor of "symphonic sketches," depicting nature's **pellucid** qualities through the use of **mellifluous** harmonies. He explored the **diaphanous** qualities of spring and nighttime, suggesting light and motion with sound the way Impressionists would do with oil paint. Listening to his most famous work, **La Mer** (the sea), one practically undulates on **translucent** waves of sound.

1. Swing makes use of \_\_\_\_\_ chord progressions and rapid tempo for dancing.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ quality of Edith Wharton's writing evokes the rarefied atmosphere of Gilded Age high society.

3. Unlike opaque oil colors, watercolors are \_\_\_\_\_ and can be applied in layers.
4. The air was so \_\_\_\_\_ that day that we could see 50 miles in every direction.
5. Venetian glass, like a fine jewel, is both \_\_\_\_\_ and colorful.
6. The sheen and lightness of silk give it a \_\_\_\_\_ quality.

7. sublime \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** pleasantly flowing
8. limpid \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** light, delicate, and semi-transparent
9. pellucid \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** transparent to light but not images
10. mellifluous \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** completely transparent
11. diaphanous \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** of exceptional quality
12. translucent \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** shining and reflective

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. aesthetic \*\*\*\*\* **a.** otherworldly
2. alluring \*\*\*\*\* **b.** picturesque
3. amorous \*\*\*\*\* **c.** to tease with something out of reach
4. betrothed \*\*\*\*\* **d.** glowing
5. comely \*\*\*\*\* **e.** ostentatious and ugly
6. dapper \*\*\*\*\* **f.** temporarily fascinated by someone
7. diaphanous \*\*\*\*\* **g.** transparent to light but not images
8. dulcet \*\*\*\*\* **h.** colorful or luxurious
9. entice \*\*\*\*\* **i.** radiating light
10. ethereal \*\*\*\*\* **j.** clothing
11. gaudy \*\*\*\*\* **k.** shining and reflective
12. idyllic \*\*\*\*\* **l.** attractive
13. incandescent \*\*\*\*\* **m.** to tempt
14. infatuated \*\*\*\*\* **n.** completely transparent
15. limpid \*\*\*\*\* **o.** engaged or promised in marriage
16. luminous \*\*\*\*\* **p.** of exceptional quality

17. mellifluous      \*\*\*\*\* **q.** pleasing to the eye
18. pellucid      \*\*\*\*\* **r.** relating to desire
19. raiment      \*\*\*\*\* **s.** a daydream
20. resplendent      \*\*\*\*\* **t.** pleasantly flowing
21. reverie      \*\*\*\*\* **u.** neat and handsome in appearance
22. sublime      \*\*\*\*\* **v.** related to the subject of beauty
23. tantalize      \*\*\*\*\* **w.** light, delicate, and semi-transparent
24. translucent      \*\*\*\*\* **x.** sweet sounding; soothing

## THE ELDER REPUBLIC

At first, Holland seems a **sedate** and simple land—a **bucolic** setting of churning windmills and flat, handsome farmland familiar from Rembrandt's paintings. Amsterdam, riven by canals and packed with narrow, meticulously groomed **domiciles** is perfectly **juxtaposed** with the countryside, however. The city became a **citadel** of commerce after the Netherlands achieved independence from Spain. In 1594, the Dutch and refugees from Spanish Belgium, who had taken **asylum** in the newly independent republic, pooled their investments to form the first corporation on Earth, the Dutch East India Company. The fleet of merchant ships their wealth purchased launched a century-long Golden Age.

1. The concrete \_\_\_\_\_ of Belgium were crushed by German artillery.
2. Every \_\_\_\_\_ requires a mixture of private spaces and common areas.
3. Despite the modernity of New York City, the \_\_\_\_\_ character of the Hudson Valley has been well preserved.
4. Had Martin Luther not gained \_\_\_\_\_, he would have been burned as a heretic.
5. The decay of Detroit is oddly \_\_\_\_\_ with the prosperity of Windsor, Ontario.
6. Compared with the works of the Venetians, Dutch and Flemish paintings are

7. sedate      \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** a fortress
8. bucolic      \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** calm; serious
9. domicile      \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** a sanctuary

10. juxtapose \_\_\_\_\_ d. positioned side by side  
11. citadel \_\_\_\_\_ e. reminiscent of idyllic countryside  
12. asylum \_\_\_\_\_ f. a home or household

## THE NIFTY FIFTIETH

The Hawaiian **archipelago** was created by a volcanic hotspot in the central Pacific. It is one of the most **remote** inhabited locations on Earth. As the easternmost **terminus** of Polynesian expansion, Hawaii came to be populated slowly over the last 1,500 years—long after other inhabited **locales**. Similarly, a much smaller number of plant and animal species have become **ensconced** on the islands compared with other South Pacific island chains like Indonesia. Those species that have successfully made the long journey over water have evolved to exploit the unique **niches** of this island paradise.

1. Lake George was a popular vacation \_\_\_\_\_ in the time before long distance commercial flights.
2. The Vatican, \_\_\_\_\_ behind high walls in Rome, is the smallest nation.
3. Istanbul was the eastern \_\_\_\_\_ of the Orient Express.
4. A thin \_\_\_\_\_ of islands separates the Caribbean Sea from the Atlantic Ocean.
5. While orbiting the far side of the moon, Michael Collins became the most \_\_\_\_\_
6. Colorado's \_\_\_\_\_ as a mountain, plains, and desert state is unique.

7. archipelago \_\_\_\_\_ a. a setting  
8. remote \_\_\_\_\_ b. a limit or final station  
9. terminus \_\_\_\_\_ c. an advantageous position  
10. locale \_\_\_\_\_ d. protected by a fortification  
11. ensconced \_\_\_\_\_ e. a chain of islands  
12. niche \_\_\_\_\_ f. far away; disconnected

## THE CENTER OF THE WORLD

Singapore has always been a trading **enclave**: the city acts as a line of **meridian**

astride the corridor of water that links the Indian and Pacific oceans and straddles the shipping lanes between Africa, Asia, and Australia. Lacking an agricultural **hinterland**, the city has always made its living from the sea. It is the natural **milieu** for commercial traders to meet, and, though one of the world's most expensive cities, home to a large **expatriate** community. City planners, harnessing the wealth that streams through the city, have created an urban environment noted for its cutting-edge green architecture and futuristic **ambience**.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of Alexandria is rich farmland irrigated by the Nile.
2. Monaco is a tax-free \_\_\_\_\_ surrounded by the French Riviera.
3. Unlike the equator, the location of 0° longitude is an arbitrary line of \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Budapest's thermal baths, set in columned palaces, have a sublime \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Marie Curie found her \_\_\_\_\_ in the laboratories and classrooms of Paris.
6. Life as an \_\_\_\_\_ shows that societies operating by different rules function just fine.
7. enclave \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** land surrounding and supporting a city
8. meridian \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** a natural setting
9. hinterland \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** prevailing atmosphere
10. milieu \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** one who lives in another country
11. expatriate \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** a community surrounded by foreign land
12. ambience \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** a dividing line on Earth's surface

### SAILING TO BYZANTIUM

Istanbul is the world's only intercontinental city, and, given its **propinquity** to the east-west trade routes, it has always attracted people. In the fourth century, the Romans saw in the Greek town then known as Byzantium a natural fortress, surrounded by water on three sides. They made it their capital, adding high walls and **bastions** to safeguard its landward approaches. The **berths** of the Golden Horn welcomed ships from the Black Sea and the Aegean, while goods from the **rustic** interior of Anatolia filled its markets. When Byzantine fortunes **ebbed**, the Ottoman Turks raised the city from the **extremity** of defeat to be their capital. Today, the

Blue Mosque and the Hagia Sophia stand side by side looking down on the oil tankers that ply the glittering waters of the Bosphorus.

1. My great-grandfather spent most his savings on a \_\_\_\_\_ aboard a steamer to America.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of New Netherland to New England guaranteed conflict.
3. As Ottoman military power \_\_\_\_\_, European fascination with Turkey grew.
4. Victims in the last \_\_\_\_\_ of hypothermia will often strip off their clothes.
5. After artillery became part of warfare, fortresses were built with angled \_\_\_\_\_ to deflect cannonballs.
6. Vermont's \_\_\_\_\_ charm has a powerful and timeless quality.

7. propinquity \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to decline
8. bastion \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** rural in character
9. berth \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** proximity
10. rustic \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** the outer limit of something
11. ebb \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** a projecting fortification
12. extremity \_\_\_\_\_

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. ambience \*\*\*\*\* **a.** one who lives in another country
2. archipelago \*\*\*\*\* **b.** a limit or final station
3. asylum \*\*\*\*\* **c.** reminiscent of idyllic\* countryside
4. bastion \*\*\*\*\* **d.** the outer limit of something
5. berth \*\*\*\*\* **e.** calm; serious
6. bucolic \*\*\*\*\* **f.** a setting
7. citadel \*\*\*\*\* **g.** a designated place for a ship or bed
8. domicile \*\*\*\*\* **h.** an advantageous position
9. ebb \*\*\*\*\* **i.** prevailing atmosphere
10. enclave \*\*\*\*\* **j.** a chain of islands
11. ensconced \*\*\*\*\* **k.** to decline



<b>12.</b> expatriate	***** <b>l.</b> positioned side by side
<b>13.</b> extremity	***** <b>m.</b> a projecting fortification
<b>14.</b> hinterland	***** <b>n.</b> a fortress
<b>15.</b> juxtapose	***** <b>o.</b> protected by a fortification
<b>16.</b> locale	***** <b>p.</b> sanctuary
<b>17.</b> meridian	***** <b>q.</b> a community surrounded by foreign land
<b>18.</b> milieu	***** <b>r.</b> a dividing line on Earth's surface
<b>19.</b> niche	***** <b>s.</b> rural in character
<b>20.</b> propinquity	***** <b>t.</b> far away; disconnected
<b>21.</b> remote	***** <b>u.</b> land surrounding and supporting a city
<b>22.</b> rustic	***** <b>v.</b> a natural setting
<b>23.</b> sedate	***** <b>w.</b> a home or household
<b>24.</b> terminus	***** <b>x.</b> proximity

## A SPORT FOR EVERYONE

Of the many highly popular sports in the United States, football must be rated at or near the top. This sport allows the *elusive* athlete to *scurry* behind the blocks of burly teammates. The skills and strengths of many are welded together so that one team may work as a unit to gain mastery over its opponent. An *acute* football fan enjoys following *frenetic* action covering many parts of the playing field at the same time. Offenses *deploy* plays practiced to perfection, while the defense swarms in a *frenzy* of effort to make one last stop.

- 1.** While predators feeding on a school of fish appear to be in a state of \_\_\_\_\_, cornering the school requires cooperation.
- 2.** The suffragettes expertly \_\_\_\_\_ provocative tactics of civil disobedience.
- 3.** A kitten will chase anything that \_\_\_\_\_ along the floor.
- 4.** The \_\_\_\_\_ tension of the pitcher's duel mounted with each scoreless inning.
- 5.** While the Americans won most pitched battles, Vietnamese forces were so \_\_\_\_\_
- 6.** Beat poetry seems to share the \_\_\_\_\_ quality of the era's jazz.

7. elusive \_\_\_\_\_ a. to put into action
8. scurry \_\_\_\_\_ b. feverish; energetic
9. acute \_\_\_\_\_ c. state of wild behavior
10. frenetic \_\_\_\_\_ d. hard to catch
11. deploy \_\_\_\_\_ e. severe; significant
12. frenzy \_\_\_\_\_ f. to move rapidly with quick steps

## 12TH MAN

The **advent** of the domed stadium has given renewed importance to the home field fans. **Spontaneous** cheers from the stands often **propagate**, encouraging the crowd to cheer louder. This gives the player on the field a boost of strength and **celerity**. When the opposing team has the ball, **unabated** cheering plays an even more important role: an offensive squad backed up on their own end of the field has difficulty hearing the play. False start penalties and broken plays are a frequent result. As a home game turns into a **romp**, the noise only becomes more relentless.

1. Serena Williams surpassed her older sister, then conquered all of women's tennis in a \_\_\_\_\_
2. Although far ahead, Secretariat's \_\_\_\_\_ kept increasing through the finish.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ of free agency has seen player salaries spike in most sports.
4. Without government intervention, the Great Depression continued \_\_\_\_\_
5. A great actor's \_\_\_\_\_ flourishes can make a scene unforgettable.
6. Social media companies face pressure to stop the \_\_\_\_\_ of disinformation.

7. advent \_\_\_\_\_ a. first appearance
8. spontaneous \_\_\_\_\_ b. an easy win
9. propagate \_\_\_\_\_ c. without let up
10. celerity \_\_\_\_\_ d. self-generated
11. unabated \_\_\_\_\_ e. to spread; to multiply

12. romp \_\_\_\_\_ f. speed

## FOOTBALL ON YOUR PHONE

Given life's demands, few find it *expedient* to be season-ticket holders of our favorite teams. Fortunately, the digital age has allowed the sport to be disseminated throughout the ether on television, radio, and Internet. Those who follow their teams' alacrity no longer have to miss a game. Business travelers can follow their team during their peregrinations. On any given Sunday, a cursory glance at the bowed heads on the bus reveals the continued popularity of football in an era of febrile activity.

1. There is little \_\_\_\_\_ in Congress for the prospect of raising taxes.
2. A \_\_\_\_\_ physical examination runs the risk of missing latent disorders.
3. Popular web browsers can track the \_\_\_\_\_ of rumors through popular searches.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of an albatross can cover thousands of miles.
5. While \_\_\_\_\_, routine antibiotic injections in livestock have bred superbugs.
6. Given the circulation of his newspaper, Marat was able to instigate violence through his

7. expedient \_\_\_\_\_ a. routine; with little care

8. disseminate \_\_\_\_\_ b. enthusiasm

9. alacrity \_\_\_\_\_ c. fast; convenient

10. peregrination \_\_\_\_\_ d. nervous or anxious

11. cursory \_\_\_\_\_ e. to circulate widely

12. febrile \_\_\_\_\_ f. wandering

## THE G.O.A.T. DEBATE

Tom Brady's career began with a *spate* of Super Bowl wins: three in his first four years. Although more seemed *imminent*, the next decade saw an *escalation* of the greatest quarterback debate. While Brady continued to trail Joe Montana and Terry Bradshaw (who won four championships apiece), Peyton Manning and Drew Brees

won their first titles. In 2008 and 2012, meanwhile, Brady was stymied in title bids by the New York Giants. The frustrations of these years galvanized Brady's resolve. A more patient and intuitive passer, Brady won another *flurry* of championships. A trade to Tampa Bay then *expedited* his new team's title hopes as Brady won his seventh ring. Now discussion of the greatest quarterback is merely *perfunctory*.

1. After his SAT scores were published, a \_\_\_\_\_ of colleges recruited Omar.
2. Carmen's \_\_\_\_\_ interview responses did not impress anyone.
3. Angelique paid to \_\_\_\_\_
4. John Brown's raid marked a dramatic \_\_\_\_\_
5. A \_\_\_\_\_ of base hits turned the tight game into a romp.
6. When the tornado siren sounds, disaster is \_\_\_\_\_.

- |                 |       |   |
|-----------------|-------|---|
| 7. spate        | _____ | a. sudden burst of activity                       |
| 8. imminent     | _____ | b. with little thought or effort                  |
| 9. escalation   | _____ | c. a series of similar events in quick succession |
| 10. flurry      | _____ | d. about to occur                                 |
| 11. expedite    | _____ | e. an increase in intensity                       |
| 12. perfunctory | _____ | f. to speed up                                    |

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |                |       |                              |
|----------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 1. acute       | ***** | a. severe; significant       |
| 2. advent      | ***** | b. to spread; to multiply    |
| 3. alacrity    | ***** | c. an increase in intensity  |
| 4. celerity    | ***** | d. wandering                 |
| 5. cursory     | ***** | e. state of wild behavior    |
| 6. deploy      | ***** | f. hard to catch             |
| 7. disseminate | ***** | g. enthusiasm                |
| 8. elusive     | ***** | h. first appearance          |
| 9. escalation  | ***** | i. to circulate widely       |
| 10. expedient  | ***** | j. routine; with little care |
| 11. expedite   | ***** | k. self-generated            |

<b>12.</b> febrile	***** <b>l.</b> about to occur
<b>13.</b> flurry	***** <b>m.</b> speed
<b>14.</b> frenetic	***** <b>n.</b> to speed up
<b>15.</b> frenzy	***** <b>o.</b> to put into action
<b>16.</b> imminent	***** <b>p.</b> with little thought or effort
<b>17.</b> peregrination	***** <b>q.</b> without let up
<b>18.</b> perfunctory	***** <b>r.</b> an easy win
<b>19.</b> propagate	***** <b>s.</b> sudden burst of activity
<b>20.</b> romp	***** <b>t.</b> fast; convenient
<b>21.</b> scurry	***** <b>u.</b> nervous or anxious
<b>22.</b> spate	***** <b>v.</b> feverish; energetic
<b>23.</b> spontaneous	***** <b>w.</b> a series of similar events in quick succession
<b>24.</b> unabated	***** <b>x.</b> to move rapidly with quick steps

### IN DAYS GONE BY

The man who best described the now extinct life aboard a steamer on the Mississippi River is Mark Twain. Having actually worked aboard the river boats, his writing captures both the *amenable* and *raucous* events of those days. In his book about life on the Mississippi, Twain recalls the times when men showed *reciprocal* courtesy. One chapter *extols* the races conducted between the swiftest of the boats. When a race was set, politics and the weather were forgotten, and people talked *effusively* of the coming contest. The two steamers “stripped” and got ready; every encumbrance that might slow the passage was removed. Captains went to extremes to lighten their boats. Twain *lampoons* one captain who scraped the paint from the statue that hung between the chimneys of his steamer.

1. Hollywood studios used to loan out contracted actors through \_\_\_\_\_ agreement.
2. Only a megalomaniac enjoys the \_\_\_\_\_ praise of sycophants.
3. Boss Tweed is most famous from the Nast cartoons that \_\_\_\_\_ him.
4. The prosecutor is \_\_\_\_\_ to pleas from cooperative defendants.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ block parties are a form of communal urban celebration.

6. Even the Romans \_\_\_\_\_ the skill and daring of the Carthaginian general, Hannibal.

7. amenable \_\_\_\_\_ a. to ridicule

8. raucous \_\_\_\_\_ b. freely flowing

9. reciprocal \_\_\_\_\_ c. to list virtues or achievements

10. extol \_\_\_\_\_ d. agreeable

11. effusive \_\_\_\_\_ e. boisterous

12. lampoon \_\_\_\_\_ f. mutually beneficial

Mark Twain's boat was so slow no other steamer would condescend to race with it. With the utmost *levity*, Twain comments that his boat moved with such *nonchalance*, they used to forget in which year they left port. Twain recounts *droll* anecdotes of ferryboats waiting in consternation for the *John* J. Roe to pass. Mark Twain wrote in a jocose manner about the races his steamer had with islands and rafts. Throughout the book, he continues to facetiously malign the riverboat, but it's clear he found life on the river a winsome experience.

1. Lord Henry's \_\_\_\_\_ is a sign of his cynicism.

2. To speak in a \_\_\_\_\_ manner in the face of death is known as "gallows humor."

3. Jake was too oblivious to notice the \_\_\_\_\_ smile that indicated Mary's interest.

4. Parisian salons were known for the \_\_\_\_\_ of the conversation.

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ pilot said the flight plan would take the passengers to Mars.

6. Calvin Coolidge would occasionally break his famous reticence to offer up \_\_\_\_\_

7. levity \_\_\_\_\_ a. amusing in a witty or dry way

8. nonchalance \_\_\_\_\_ b. attractive

9. droll \_\_\_\_\_ c. sarcastic regarding serious matters

10. jocose \_\_\_\_\_ d. humor; lightness

11. facetious \_\_\_\_\_ e. casualness

12. winsome \_\_\_\_\_ f. humorous

## THE RIVERBOAT PILOT

The riverboat pilot was a man **exalted** above all. Mark Twain was once **jubilant** to have attained that high position. Starting out as apprentice under the **beneficence** of a master pilot, he maintained dreams of the time he would become “the only unfettered and entirely independent human being that lived in the earth.” Kings, parliaments, and newspaper editors, Twain comments, are hampered and restricted. The **insouciant** river pilot issued commands with the **impunity** of an absolute monarch. The pilot’s skill at avoiding the reefs and sand bars that imperiled a ship made him something of an **iconoclast** with independent authority on the bridge of older, higher ranking captains.

1. Diplomats in foreign lands enjoy a measure of \_\_\_\_\_ from local laws.
2. Former presidents typically enjoy the \_\_\_\_\_ status of elder statesmen.
3. Marshall McLuhan was the \_\_\_\_\_ who first theorized that media forms were more influential than the messages they carry.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Parisians celebrated the end of four years of Nazi occupation.
5. Marie Antoinette’s \_\_\_\_\_ attitude toward their poverty alienated the French.
6. Many of New York’s museums were the gift of wealthy, \_\_\_\_\_ private donors.

7. exalted \_\_\_\_\_ a. carefree
8. jubilant \_\_\_\_\_ b. one who transcends traditional beliefs
9. beneficent \_\_\_\_\_ c. rejoicing
10. insouciant \_\_\_\_\_ d. immunity from punishment
11. impunity \_\_\_\_\_ e. high in importance
12. iconoclast \_\_\_\_\_ f. kind; generous

## THE DOUBLE CROSS

The Mississippi is a boundary between many states; thus, the riverboat, always in motion astride legal jurisdictions, had a certain **venal** atmosphere. While the

**philanthropic** and philosophical might book passage, so too did droves of **libertines**. Gamblers, con men, criminals, and those seeking a more **bohemian** lifestyle than nineteenth-century America typically had to offer would often crowd the bar and card tables of a steamship. Many incidents retold by Twain involve cheats fleecing wealthy marks who had only a **facile** understanding of card play. In one case, a particularly **profligate** cardsharp attempted to swindle a gullible-seeming farmer only to lose his shirt when the would-be dupe proved a superior hustler—one who had secretly paid off all of the other players at the table!

1. Greenwich Village is often associated with a \_\_\_\_\_ lifestyle.
2. Rather than freedom, an absence of moral restraint denotes a \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Late in life, Andrew Carnegie devoted his millions to \_\_\_\_\_ work.
4. The police in some countries are so \_\_\_\_\_ that they explicitly pull over tourists to extort bribes.
5. Alaska has claimed the lives of many with only a \_\_\_\_\_ grasp of survival skills.
6. Emma Bovary becomes so \_\_\_\_\_ in her lifestyle that she ruins her family.

- |                  |       |   |
|------------------|-------|---|
| 7. venal         | _____ | a. having a superficial understanding       |
| 8. philanthropic | _____ | b. wasteful; immoral                        |
| 9. libertine     | _____ | c. corrupt                                  |
| 10. bohemian     | _____ | d. one who acts without regard for morality |
| 11. facile       | _____ | e. associated with an artistic lifestyle    |
| 12. profligate   | _____ | f. generous toward humanity                 |

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |               |       |                                    |
|---------------|-------|------------------------------------|
| 1. amenable   | ***** | a. humorous                        |
| 2. reciprocal | ***** | b. boisterous                      |
| 3. beneficent | ***** | c. kind; generous                  |
| 4. bohemian   | ***** | d. casualness                      |
| 5. droll      | ***** | e. to list virtues or achievements |



6. effusive	***** f. corrupt
7. exalted	***** g. carefree
8. extol	***** h. amusing in a witty or dry way
9. facetious	***** i. one who acts without regard for morality
10. facile	***** j. sarcastic regarding serious matters
11. iconoclast	***** k. generous toward humanity
12. impunity	***** l. wasteful; immoral
13. insouciant	***** m. immunity from punishment
14. jocose	***** n. associated with an artistic lifestyle
15. jubilant	***** o. rejoicing
16. lampoon	***** p. attractive
17. levity	***** q. freely flowing
18. libertine	***** r. one who transcends traditional beliefs
19. nonchalance	***** s. agreeable
20. philanthropic	***** t. humor; lightness
21. profligate	***** u. mutually beneficial
22. raucous	***** v. having a superficial understanding
23. venal	***** w. to ridicule
24. winsome	***** x. high in importance

### CHOOSE YOUR SOURCE

Today, there is no **respite** from propaganda. It is not in spite of, but because of, our democratic beliefs that pressure groups are an **intrinsic** feature of our republic. **Steeped** in a culture of personal choice, Americans are not a **homogeneous** mass of humanity. Propaganda is, therefore, an important tool in the **repertoire** of those who wish to influence the course our country takes. It is such an **indigenous** feature of our public discourse that the average person faces both credible and deceptive propaganda efforts continuously without realizing it. While propaganda has the ostensible purpose of informing the public, the most fervid propagandists use methods that must be examined by the thoughtful citizen.

1. Thermal and electric conductivity are \_\_\_\_\_ properties of metals.

2. Regime change theory assumes populations are \_\_\_\_\_ in their values and beliefs.
3. Naval warfare was not part of the \_\_\_\_\_ of Spartan military strengths.
4. Seasoned fighters will use a knockdown as a brief \_\_\_\_\_ to regain energy.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ Maori constitute about one-sixth of New Zealand's population.
6. The Marine Corps is a fighting organization \_\_\_\_\_ in tradition.

7. respite \_\_\_\_\_ a. immersed in
8. intrinsic \_\_\_\_\_ b. uniform in composition
9. steeped \_\_\_\_\_ c. native population
10. homogeneous \_\_\_\_\_ d. an array of skills
11. repertoire \_\_\_\_\_ e. a pause or rest
12. indigenous \_\_\_\_\_ f. essential to something

### A FREE SOCIETY

The right to propagate ideas and try to win converts is an essential *facet* of a free society. We do not look upon an idea different from ours as an anomaly that should be avoided. Nor do we permit only *mundane* or *tranquil* beliefs and forbid those we believe are spurious *cants*. In a country of competing pressures, there is a *propensity* to feel overwhelmed by a multitude of viewpoints. Some of these are merely seeking to share information, while others aim to *indoctrinate* the fatuous.

1. Many with the loudest \_\_\_\_\_ about morality are hiding their own misdeeds.
2. Some \_\_\_\_\_ of a spouse's personality take years to uncover.
3. For the immature, the \_\_\_\_\_ is more stressful than the dramatic.
4. Miley Cyrus has a \_\_\_\_\_ to stick out her tongue in pictures.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ sea made it hard for the Titanic's lookout to see the iceberg.
6. Advertising uses the power to \_\_\_\_\_ for commercial purposes.

7. facet \_\_\_\_\_ a. an often hypocritical rant
8. mundane \_\_\_\_\_ b. instill a set of beliefs

9. tranquil \_\_\_\_\_ c. aspect  
 10. cant \_\_\_\_\_ d. natural tendency  
 11. propensity \_\_\_\_\_ e. peaceful  
 12. indoctrinate \_\_\_\_\_ f. ordinary; commonplace

## WHO LISTENS?

The most **rudimentary** forms of propaganda directly tell us who or what to support. Messages are piped right into one's **abode** through television and radio. As such messages become more common, they also become more insistent in order to compete. An **inevitable** result of increased levels of propaganda is that the individual may form an aversion to all attempts to influence her. A more insidious form of propaganda comes from sources that are **nominally** labeled news programs. Yellow journalism has the effect of forming entrenched **cliques** of like-minded people. In this way, extreme ideas can become **tenable** when repeated by one's friends and family.

1. For most of his reign, Henry VI was merely a \_\_\_\_\_ ruler.
2. The sea, according to Greek mythology, is Poseidon's \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ baseball principle is to run with a full count and two outs.
4. After the loss of its fleet, Carthage's position on Sicily was no longer \_\_\_\_\_.
5. In Lord of the Flies, \_\_\_\_\_ of boys degenerate into warring parties.
6. Birth becomes \_\_\_\_\_ once a pregnant woman's water breaks.

7. rudimentary \_\_\_\_\_ a. can be maintained  
 8. abode \_\_\_\_\_ b. a close-knit group of people  
 9. inevitable \_\_\_\_\_ c. home  
 10. nominal \_\_\_\_\_ d. in name only  
 11. clique \_\_\_\_\_ e. basic  
 12. tenable \_\_\_\_\_ f. unavoidable

## THE PEOPLE DECIDE

In any **extant** authoritarian regime, the role of propaganda is dramatically different.

Some dictatorships will allow **inanimate** opposition parties to exist only to be trounced in fraudulent elections and have their talking points discredited by the state-run media. Totalitarian governments won't even allow that much. The **edifice** of government has one voice—that of the **incumbent** leader. Dissenters in such lands are subject to arrest, execution, or long sentences of **menial** labor in work camps. The free expression of ideas is not **compatible** with such a system of state control because allowing any public criticism can precipitate rebellion. Many historians believe that the Soviet policy of tolerance toward criticism that followed the Chernobyl nuclear disaster presaged the dissolution of the Soviet Union itself.

1. The Romanian Parliament Building is one of the most costly \_\_\_\_\_ ever built.
2. Most \_\_\_\_\_ presidents do manage to win reelection.
3. Gandhi felt that sharing \_\_\_\_\_ tasks at the ashram helped foster solidarity.
4. An emotionally \_\_\_\_\_ couple tends to stay together more often.
5. Anger at \_\_\_\_\_ objects is a sign that a person struggles with frustration.
6. Only about 1% of all species that have ever lived are \_\_\_\_\_ right now.

- |                |       |                                     |
|----------------|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 7. extant      | _____ | a. capable of coexistence           |
| 8. inanimate   | _____ | b. describes work that is unskilled |
| 9. edifice     | _____ | c. not living                       |
| 10. incumbent  | _____ | d. a man-made structure             |
| 11. menial     | _____ | e. still in existence               |
| 12. compatible | _____ | f. currently in power               |

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |               |       |                           |
|---------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 1. abode      | ***** | a. basic                  |
| 2. cant       | ***** | b. an array of skills     |
| 3. clique     | ***** | c. ordinary; commonplace  |
| 4. compatible | ***** | d. can be maintained      |
| 5. edifice    | ***** | e. essential to something |

6. extant	***** f. describes work that is unskilled
7. facet	***** g. a pause or rest
8. homogeneous	***** h. capable of coexistence
9. inanimate	***** i. still in existence
10. incumbent	***** j. home
11. indigenous	***** k. aspect
12. indoctrinate	***** l. peaceful
13. inevitable	***** m. unavoidable
14. intrinsic	***** n. not living
15. menial	***** o. instill a set of beliefs
16. mundane	***** p. in name only
17. nominal	***** q. natural tendency
18. propensity	***** r. a close-knit group of people
19. repertoire	***** s. a man-made structure
20. respite	***** t. native population
21. rudimentary	***** u. currently in power
22. steeped	***** v. immersed in
23. tenable	***** w. uniform in composition
24. tranquil	***** x. an often hypocritical rant

### ANYONE FOR GOOGLE?

Servers store and search engines *aggregate* an increasingly *prodigious* volume of information. Experts try to help novices separate the *pith* of ideas from the *cavalcade* of trivial details, but society is overwhelmed by a *din* of information. Machines can scan thousands of words in nanoseconds to help expedite any research. As a result, elementary students know how to extract *caches* of information that would have taken their grandparents an eternity to produce. This wealth of facts, should not, however, be confused with any increase in human wisdom.

1. Even from the other end of a phone, the \_\_\_\_\_ of Manhattan is unmistakable.

2. Amundsen left supply \_\_\_\_\_ along his route to the South Pole for the

return trip.

3. Louis XIV \_\_\_\_\_ the French nobility in Versailles to keep an eye on them.

4. The smiling \_\_\_\_\_ of Olympic teams belies the fierce competition to come.

5. Lincoln's speeches, though brief, struck the \_\_\_\_\_ of a matter resoundingly.

6. Alexander Hamilton's \_\_\_\_\_ capacity for work impressed even his foes.

7. aggregate \_\_\_\_\_ a. a hidden collection of useful items

8. prodigious \_\_\_\_\_ b. a considerable racket

9. pith \_\_\_\_\_ c. impressive; considerable

10. cavalcade \_\_\_\_\_ d. the heart of something

11. din \_\_\_\_\_ e. gather together

12. cache \_\_\_\_\_ f. a procession

### EVERYONE IS TALKING

Can anyone under the age of 40 remember a time when the **monolithic** landline telephone was the only method of voice communication over long distances? What a bizarre concept this must seem for today's youth. It has become a **cumbersome** form of personal contact. The instrument for the modern communicator is the smartphone, which has usurped the wired model. The cell phone user can have **voluminous** conversations almost anywhere without running up a **colossal** bill. **Augmenting** the virtuosity of the smartphone, text messaging has become an increasingly popular way to send succinct messages without the commitment of a call. Competing wireless carriers offer **comprehensive** data plans for web browsing and app usage.

1. Henry Frick's Manhattan home is now a museum with a \_\_\_\_\_ art collection.

2. Prior to the Reformation, European Christianity was a \_\_\_\_\_ force.

3. Muhammad Ali's comedic taunting actually \_\_\_\_\_ his boxing skills.

4. The Broncos \_\_\_\_\_ defeat in Super Bowl XXIV was the worst in history.

5. Nineteenth-century photography was so \_\_\_\_\_ that no action could be

captured.

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ Hercules bomber only flew once and barely got airborne.

7. monolithic \_\_\_\_\_ a. thorough; complete

8. cumbersome \_\_\_\_\_ b. to increase or expand

9. voluminous \_\_\_\_\_ c. large and uniform

10. colossal \_\_\_\_\_ d. awkward; unwieldy

11. augment \_\_\_\_\_ e. giant-sized

12. comprehensive \_\_\_\_\_ f. full and extensive

### THE FUTURE IS HERE

The invention of the printing press represented a ***gargantuan*** leap in the proliferation of the written word. Before that, texts were copied by hand. Although possessing a certain ***grandeur***, with ***ostentatious*** calligraphy and illustration, such manuscripts took years to make. Despite the tedious process of typesetting each page in a ***mammoth*** frame, printing allowed the creation of hundreds of identical pages at a time. The ***commodious*** typewriter, first mechanical and then electronic, marked the advent of personal printing capacity. Although an improvement over handwriting, typewriting did not allow for easy revision or correction of mistakes. The personal computer and home printer have finally ***amalgamated*** the advances in printing that have occurred since the Gutenberg Bible.

1. The Titanic's first-class cabins were both \_\_\_\_\_ and luxurious.

2. Tourists who make an \_\_\_\_\_ display of wealth are often robbed.

3. As mounted attacks were suicidal, WWI cavalry units were \_\_\_\_\_ with infantry.

4. Completing Atlas Shrugged was a \_\_\_\_\_ task that took Rand decades.

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ Laurentide Ice Sheet was two miles thick and covered all of Canada.

6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spit Head naval review of 1897 during Queen Victoria's 60th jubilee symbolized the apex of British power.

7. gargantuan \_\_\_\_\_ a. showy

8. grandeur \_\_\_\_\_ b. to fuse together  
 9. ostentatious \_\_\_\_\_ c. impressively large  
 10. mammoth \_\_\_\_\_ d. bulky, roomy  
 11. commodious \_\_\_\_\_ e. impressive splendor  
 12. amalgamate \_\_\_\_\_ f. gigantic

### IT'S HAPPENING NOW

The **cumulative** pace of telecommunications technology development proceeds at such a regular pace that new breakthroughs are a mundane occurrence. Don't underestimate the power of **swank**, however: advertising has the effect of **aggrandizing** every new technological marvel. Fans of the most popular smartphone find themselves **engrossed** by the latest rumors of the next model. And yet the **bulwark** never holds; the newest gadget is always **subsumed** by a flood of new features, and the FOMO effect drives customers to pick up the newest toy.

1. Dylan was so \_\_\_\_\_ in the novel that he missed the bus.
2. Wall Street is named for a \_\_\_\_\_ built by the Dutch to protect New Amsterdam.
3. The Flamingo was the first \_\_\_\_\_ casino built in Las Vegas.
4. The revolution in Paris was quickly \_\_\_\_\_ into a nationwide movement.
5. Ethics forbid using one's office to \_\_\_\_\_ one's private interests.
6. The general succumbed to the \_\_\_\_\_ effects of his many wounds.

7. cumulative \_\_\_\_\_ a. increase the power of something  
 8. swank \_\_\_\_\_ b. absorbed  
 9. aggrandize \_\_\_\_\_ c. include or absorb in something else  
 10. engrossed \_\_\_\_\_ d. a defensive barrier  
 11. bulwark \_\_\_\_\_ e. overall  
 12. subsume \_\_\_\_\_ f. fancy and luxurious

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. aggrandize \*\*\*\*\* a. the heart of something



2. aggregate	***** b. a procession
3. amalgamate	***** c. impressive splendor
4. augment	***** d. large and uniform
5. bulwark	***** e. include or absorb in something else
6. cache	***** f. giant-sized
7. cavalcade	***** g. fancy and luxurious
8. colossal	***** h. a considerable racket
9. commodious	***** i. thorough; complete
10. comprehensive	***** j. bulky, roomy
11. cumbersome	***** k. a hidden collection of useful items
12. cumulative	***** l. impressively large
13. din	***** m. impressive; considerable
14. engrossed	***** n. absorbed
15. gargantuan	***** o. gather together
16. grandeur	***** p. a defensive barrier
17. mammoth	***** q. to fuse together
18. monolithic	***** r. increase the power of something
19. ostentatious	***** s. full and extensive
20. pith	***** t. gigantic
21. prodigious	***** u. overall
22. subsume	***** v. awkward; unwieldy
23. swank	***** w. to increase or expand
24. voluminous	***** x. showy

## AT A LOSS

With the *paltry* sum of \$10 in his pockets, Robert Lacy worried about his *waning* fortunes. No matter how frugal he was, his *negligible* funds would run out before the next day. Never *remiss* in his responsibilities, he owed \$5 in debts to friends. Hunger would *vitate* him to the point where he could not continue his search for Evelyn. There was always the *spurious* hope that a stranger would help him with money, but that still wouldn't help him find her.

1. Jefferson argues that a government \_\_\_\_\_ in its duties should be changed.
2. Tyson's punching power was \_\_\_\_\_ by age and inactivity.
3. Megan earned \_\_\_\_\_ wages working for a nonprofit organization.
4. It is wise to delete all \_\_\_\_\_ emails that appear to be from financial institutions.
5. At slow speeds, wind resistance usually has a \_\_\_\_\_ effect.
6. After failing a second time to sack Vienna, Ottoman power began to \_\_\_\_\_.

7. paltry \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to weaken or spoil
8. wane \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** small enough to be ignored
9. negligible \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** very small
10. remiss \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** illegitimate
11. vitiate \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to decline
12. spurious \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** derelict in one's duties

### MAKING PLANS

Robert had arrived in New York a week earlier. He had begun by asking **innocuous** questions of Evelyn's former landlord. The landlord was **fatalistic**, and all Robert had been able to glean from the **sporadic** replies was that Evelyn had moved to a residence that catered to single women. Robert was in a hopeless situation; in this immense city, his quarry could, **hypothetically**, be hiding in one of dozens of such places. If he searched randomly, he would be **susceptible** to wasting time. He needed to **curtail** such a haphazard strategy and form a plan.

1. Countries that lack natural defenses are more \_\_\_\_\_ to invasion.
2. Opportunistic infections are caused by germs that are normally \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ examples do little to support a term paper.
4. The artillery bombardment was too \_\_\_\_\_ to do any real damage.
5. New penalties have been proposed to help \_\_\_\_\_ excessive celebration.
6. The CEO was \_\_\_\_\_ about the prospects of the proposed plan.

7. innocuous \_\_\_\_\_ a. occurring irregularly
8. fatalistic \_\_\_\_\_ b. based on a hypothesis
9. sporadic \_\_\_\_\_ c. harmless
10. hypothetical \_\_\_\_\_ d. to stop; to cut short
11. susceptible \_\_\_\_\_ e. doubtful; pessimistic
12. curtail \_\_\_\_\_ f. vulnerable

### A NEWSPAPER AD

Robert held out an *intangible* hope: Evelyn knew she was being sought, so he decided to *desist* in fruitless searching and place an ad in the leading morning newspaper. He would offer a careful, *attenuated* plea for her return. The ad read, “Evelyn. Come out of hiding. I do not reproach you for *jilting* me. I expect no *ersatz* confession. Please contact. Robert.” When Robert went to the paper the next morning, there was a letter for him, and with *enervated* fingers he tore it open. It contained one sentence: “If you really care about me, you will find me by midnight, Friday. Evelyn.”

1. As the shortages worsened, \_\_\_\_\_ products like salt and sugar substitutes proliferated.
2. Miss Havisham became embittered after she was \_\_\_\_\_ by her fiancé.
3. Sound walls can \_\_\_\_\_ the noise produced by major highways.
4. Montana, \_\_\_\_\_ by his bout with the flu, wasn't sharp in the playoff loss.
5. Cody's father sent him to his room when he didn't \_\_\_\_\_ playing with his food.
6. Momentum is one of the most powerful, yet \_\_\_\_\_, factors in sports.

7. intangible \_\_\_\_\_ a. to abandon
8. desist \_\_\_\_\_ b. to weaken
9. attenuate \_\_\_\_\_ c. fake; imitation
10. jilt \_\_\_\_\_ d. to stop doing something
11. ersatz \_\_\_\_\_ e. to lessen the effect of

12. enervate \_\_\_\_\_ f. difficult to perceive; abstract

## AT THE BALLET

Seeking a **cessation** of their estrangement, Robert thought hard. Evelyn **eschewed** predictability: she had a propensity for folk music and rock and, at the same time, was an avid fan of classical ballet. At one time, she had been a fledgling ballet dancer until a car accident left her **supine** for months. With the **encumbrance** of a leg brace, Evelyn **regressed** as a dancer. Robert headed for a theater where a venerable ballet company was performing. Only three more days remained before the deadline set by Evelyn. And so, although he considered ballet to be **vapid** entertainment, he joined the throng in the lobby hoping to see her.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of their kit slowed the progress of the infantry.
2. Dementia is evident when a patient \_\_\_\_\_ in simple tasks.
3. Donald Trump often \_\_\_\_\_ formal speeches, preferring to improvise.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ victim was found face-down in an overgrown field.
5. The superb cast could not overcome the \_\_\_\_\_ dialogue they were given.
6. An armistice simply entails a \_\_\_\_\_ of hostilities—not lasting peace.

- |                 |       |                                      |
|-----------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 7. cessation    | _____ | a. lacking in interest               |
| 8. eschew       | _____ | b. burden                            |
| 9. supine       | _____ | c. to decline in ability or maturity |
| 10. encumbrance | _____ | d. lying down                        |
| 11. regress     | _____ | e. a full stop                       |
| 12. vapid       | _____ | f. to avoid                          |

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |                |       |                            |
|----------------|-------|----------------------------|
| 1. attenuate   | ***** | a. to stop doing something |
| 2. cessation   | ***** | b. to decline              |
| 3. curtail     | ***** | c. vulnerable              |
| 4. desist      | ***** | d. to weaken               |
| 5. encumbrance | ***** | e. very small              |

<b>6. enervate</b>	***** <b>f.</b> to avoid
<b>7. ersatz</b>	***** <b>g.</b> lacking in interest
<b>8. eschew</b>	***** <b>h.</b> derelict in one's duties
<b>9. fatalistic</b>	***** <b>i.</b> to abandon
<b>10. hypothetical</b>	***** <b>j.</b> illegitimate
<b>11. innocuous</b>	***** <b>k.</b> based on a hypothesis
<b>12. intangible</b>	***** <b>l.</b> fake; imitation
<b>13. jilt</b>	***** <b>m.</b> lying down
<b>14. negligible</b>	***** <b>n.</b> to weaken or spoil
<b>15. paltry</b>	***** <b>o.</b> occurring irregularly
<b>16. regress</b>	***** <b>p.</b> to lessen the effect of
<b>17. remiss</b>	***** <b>q.</b> a full stop
<b>18. sporadic</b>	***** <b>r.</b> to stop; to cut short
<b>19. spurious</b>	***** <b>s.</b> burden
<b>20. supine</b>	***** <b>t.</b> doubtful; pessimistic
<b>21. susceptible</b>	***** <b>u.</b> to decline in ability or maturity
<b>22. vapid</b>	***** <b>v.</b> harmless
<b>23. vitiate</b>	***** <b>w.</b> small enough to be ignored
<b>24. wane</b>	***** <b>x.</b> difficult to perceive; abstract

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

<b>1. aficionado</b>	***** <b>a.</b> the Roman temple dedicated to all gods
<b>2. supine</b>	***** <b>b.</b> the French expression for
<b>3. nuance</b>	***** <b>c.</b> formed from the French verb
<b>4. clique</b>	***** <b>d.</b> Latin word formed from two religious root words
<b>5. grandeur</b>	***** <b>e.</b> a Sanskrit word roughly referring to escape from life's suffering
<b>6. cognizance</b>	***** <b>f.</b> a Spanish term referring to a devoted expert of a
<b>7. credo</b>	***** <b>g.</b> name of a rancher who lost cattle by not branding them
<b>8. stoic</b>	***** <b>h.</b> the German word for
<b>9. tantalize</b>	***** <b>i.</b> French term for a fortified tower

10. milieu \*\*\*\*\* j. French noun meaning

11. sacrosanct \*\*\*\*\* k. Greek philosophers who did not show emotions

12. coup \*\*\*\*\* l. French expression for a subtle distinction

### ANOTHER PLAN

Robert **bristled** as he waited in the lobby for almost an hour after the performance had begun. His **somber** appearance stood out as he attracted several stares.

**Disgruntled**, he quit the site of his vigil. He had to face the doleful truth that he was making no tangible progress. Tomorrow he would telephone several apartment buildings. It was an ineffectual way of going about his search, but it was all that he could think of at the moment. He had no qualms about interrogating desk clerks, and perhaps he might uncover a pertinent clue to Evelyn's whereabouts.

1. Music for the Funeral of Queen Mary is one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ pieces ever written.
2. Before the mutiny, Captain Anderson was oblivious to the \_\_\_\_\_ state of his crew.
3. Many voters
4. While brilliant, Dr. Trask was an
5. No one knows why minor chords have a more \_\_\_\_\_ sound.
6. During Prohibition, few had any \_\_\_\_\_ about drinking illegal liquor.

7. bristle \_\_\_\_\_ a. not producing a desired effect

8. somber \_\_\_\_\_ b. full of sadness

9. disgruntled \_\_\_\_\_ c. react with anger

10. doleful \_\_\_\_\_ d. sober or serious

11. ineffectual \_\_\_\_\_ e. misgivings

12. qualms \_\_\_\_\_ f. visibly disappointed

### A HOPE DASHED

The next day, Wednesday, saw Robert become more **fraught**. He would fluctuate between high hopes of finding Evelyn and **foreboding**. The phone calls had elicited

almost nothing. A **neurotic** wreck, Robert had rushed to one residence when the clerk described a girl who might just be Evelyn. Robert waited in the lobby on a drab and **forlorn**-looking sofa. He watched from a discreet distance as she came down the stairs. One look at her **sullen** face and **disheveled** hair and Robert knew it was not his impeccable Evelyn.

1. It's long been said that the intelligent are less happy and more \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. The two teens could not hide their \_\_\_\_\_ appearance from their parents.
3. Rounding Cape Horn has always been \_\_\_\_\_ with danger.
4. Few in Vienna paid much mind to the \_\_\_\_\_ young Hitler.
5. Longstreet's sense of \_\_\_\_\_ could not stop the doomed Pickett's Charge.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ kitten in the rain evoked pity in Mr. Shen, who took it in.

- |                |       |                                   |
|----------------|-------|-----------------------------------|
| 7. fraught     | _____ | a. seemingly doomed               |
| 8. foreboding  | _____ | b. carelessly groomed             |
| 9. neurotic    | _____ | c. grumpy or moody                |
| 10. forlorn    | _____ | d. imperiled                      |
| 11. sullen     | _____ | e. unusually sensitive or anxious |
| 12. disheveled | _____ | f. dejected; unloved              |

### TO THE POLICE

Robert felt utterly **hapless**. Thursday was his penultimate day; he had followed up every lead to no avail. Now he felt **lachrymose** and was in deplorable physical condition. In desperation, he turned to the police. They asked many questions and requested that he not leave anything out, although some of their queries seemed inane. When they inquired about his relationship to the missing girl, he replied with a grimace, "Fiancé." It was an ignominious admission: the woman he loved had jilted him in a fit of ennui. He bristled when they suggested she might be hiding in a part of the city known for low characters, but he had to admit that searching everywhere else had proven fruitless.

1. Bettors wager on which player will earn the \_\_\_\_\_ distinction of last selection in the NFL Draft.

2. \_\_\_\_\_ is typically the complaint of intellectuals, artists, and wealthy heirs.
3. Serena Williams once defeated an opponent so \_\_\_\_\_ she failed to win a game.
4. After imbibing their share of rum, the old sailors sang \_\_\_\_\_ sea shanties.
5. The Sanitary Commission fought against \_\_\_\_\_ Civil War camp conditions.
6. Ron's \_\_\_\_\_ chatter repelled many a would-be companion.

7. hapless \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** disgraceful
8. lachrymose \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** silly
9. deplorable \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** listless boredom
10. inane \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** in terrible condition
11. ignominious \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** unlucky
12. ennui \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** tearful

### EVELYN DISCOVERED

Robert was hopeless: his mind veered toward **macabre** visions involving her grisly demise at the hands of the **dregs** of the urban populace. What if some **nonentity** with a gun or knife attacked her? He steadied himself; it was now Friday. An impulse brought him to an unfamiliar, decrepit section of the city. Always fastidious about proper dress and behavior, he felt like an **interloper**. A moment later, he saw her! Evelyn! She was **bedraggled**, sitting at a table in a coffee shop, surrounded by the most noisome individuals he had ever seen. So this was her milieu! At that instant, Robert knew he had lost her. He walked away, a **melancholy** figure with his head down.

1. In a small town, an \_\_\_\_\_ feels most out place.
2. President Garfield was shot by a \_\_\_\_\_ who demanded a diplomatic post.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ acts of the real Vlad Dracula have redounded through the ages.
4. Depression is more than mere \_\_\_\_\_ ; it is a form of emotional paralysis.



5. The lawless Western Frontier attracted the \_\_\_\_\_ of Eastern society.
6. George Bailey surmises from Mr. Gower's \_\_\_\_\_ appearance that he has suffered a terrible blow.
7. macabre \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** abiding sadness
8. dregs \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** dirty and messy in appearance
9. nonentity \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** an outsider or meddler
10. interloper \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** the most worthless part of something
11. bedraggled \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** related to death or horror
12. melancholy \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** a person with no notable qualities

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. bedraggled \*\*\*\*\* **a.** in terrible condition
2. bristle \*\*\*\*\* **b.** sober or serious
3. deplorable \*\*\*\*\* **c.** grumpy or moody
4. disgruntled \*\*\*\*\* **d.** visibly disappointed
5. disheveled \*\*\*\*\* **e.** silly
6. doleful \*\*\*\*\* **f.** dirty and messy in appearance
7. dregs \*\*\*\*\* **g.** carelessly groomed
8. ennui \*\*\*\*\* **h.** listless boredom
9. foreboding \*\*\*\*\* **i.** the most worthless part of something
10. forlorn \*\*\*\*\* **j.** unusually sensitive or anxious
11. fraught \*\*\*\*\* **k.** abiding sadness
12. hapless \*\*\*\*\* **l.** a person with no notable qualities
13. ignominious \*\*\*\*\* **m.** misgivings
14. inane \*\*\*\*\* **n.** imperiled
15. ineffectual \*\*\*\*\* **o.** an outsider or meddler
16. interloper \*\*\*\*\* **p.** not producing a desired effect
17. lachrymose \*\*\*\*\* **q.** disgraceful
18. macabre \*\*\*\*\* **r.** react with anger
19. melancholy \*\*\*\*\* **s.** seemingly doomed

<b>20.</b> neurotic	***** <b>t.</b> unlucky
<b>21.</b> nonentity	***** <b>u.</b> dejected; unloved
<b>22.</b> qualms	***** <b>v.</b> related to death or horror
<b>23.</b> somber	***** <b>w.</b> full of sadness
<b>24.</b> sullen	***** <b>x.</b> tearful

## A MODERN AESOP

The telling of a **pithy** story with an inherently important message is an art form. The **parable** may be found teaching a moral lesson in the Bible. Aesop is the undisputed master of the fable. This story form has revived under the modern Aesop, James Thurber. His **concise** tales lampoon the strange behavior of his fellow men. Thurber seems **flabbergasted** by the notions that permeate our society. He is most **skeptical** of sanctimonious **paeans** and the inevitability of good triumphing over evil.

1. George III was \_\_\_\_\_ when he learned Washington resigned his commission.
  2. Gordon Gekko's \_\_\_\_\_ to greed reverberates in business culture to this day.
  3. The letter from Princeton was so \_\_\_\_\_ Tyler already knew it was a rejection.
  4. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the Good Samaritan is one of the most famous of Jesus's teachings.
  5. An investment banker's job requires being \_\_\_\_\_ of far-fetched business ideas.
  6. Boss Murphy spoke in \_\_\_\_\_ epithets; his protege, Al Smith, gave speeches.
- 
7. pithy \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** long-winded praise
  8. parable \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** using an economy of words
  9. concise \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** astonished
  10. flabbergasted \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** expressive in few words
  11. skeptical \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** dubious

12. paean

\_\_\_\_\_ f. a fable

## MODERNIZING A PARABLE

Thurber punctures the *sophistry* accepted by everyone. In one tale, a tortoise beats a hare in a race. The *laconic* old tortoise hunted for a hare and soon found one. “Do you have the effrontery to challenge me?” asked the hare *demurely*. “You are a nonentity,” *averred* the tortoise. A course of 50 feet was set out. The other animals created a *clamor* with their excitement. At the sound of the gun, they were off. When the hare crossed the finish line, the flabbergasted tortoise had gone approximately eight and three-quarter inches. The moral Thurber draws from this debacle is a *curt* one: a new broom may sweep clean, but never trust an old saw.

1. Brett’s sullen mood and \_\_\_\_\_ replies didn’t endear him to his hosts.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ surrounding the president’s announcement was unfounded.
3. Roosevelt \_\_\_\_\_ he would not run for president again and instantly regretted it.
4. Card sharks know that when a novice seems \_\_\_\_\_, he has a good hand.
5. Wallach’s gritty “Tuco” earns the respect of the \_\_\_\_\_ “man with no name.”
6. No amount of \_\_\_\_\_ or clever phrases can save Little Finger from justice.
7. sophistry \_\_\_\_\_ a. modest; unassuming
8. laconic \_\_\_\_\_ b. to openly declare
9. demure \_\_\_\_\_ c. the use of language to deceive or impress
10. aver \_\_\_\_\_ d. not talkative
11. clamor \_\_\_\_\_ e. short to the point of rudeness
12. curt \_\_\_\_\_ f. uproar

## THINGS HAVE CHANGED

Thurber modernizes a story most children know *verbatim*. It begins in the forest with a *dissembling* wolf engaging in conversation with a little girl traveling to her grandmother’s cottage. With alacrity, this *loquacious* youngster told the wolf the

address to which she was going. The hungry wolf rushed to the house. When the girl arrived and entered, she saw a figure dressed like her grandmother. She quickly surmised that it didn't look like her grandmother. The girl greeted her hairy "grandma"; from the wolf's **utterance** of reply and **garbled** speech, the girl became cognizant of the wolf's deception. Thurber **explicates** his moral: it is not so easy to fool little girls nowadays.

1. With his every \_\_\_\_\_, Iago sought to play on Othello's jealousy.
  2. When the suspects' stories matched \_\_\_\_\_, Detective Diaz suspected collusion.
  3. Messages over the first transatlantic cable came through hopelessly \_\_\_\_\_.
  4. Incredibly, it took centuries for physicists to \_\_\_\_\_ why night is dark.
  5. To Shakespeare, few villains are capable of \_\_\_\_\_ to the point that corruption will not show on their faces.
  6. Propaganda posters warned that a single \_\_\_\_\_ soldier could doom the mission.
- 
7. verbatim \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to hide one's thoughts or feelings
  8. dissemble \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** distort the sound of something
  9. loquacious \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** to explain in detail
  10. utterance \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** word for word
  11. garble \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** short spoken word or sound
  12. explicate \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** talkative

### ANOTHER SURPRISE

Thurber's stories read like the tales of a **garrulous** storyteller without being **verbose**. At the same time, they hint at some **ineffable** truths. He tells of some builders who left a pane of glass standing upright at their work site. A hapless goldfinch then strikes the glass. He rushes back and **divulges** to his friends that the air had crystallized. The only bird who believes him is the swallow. The other birds deride him for his **gaffe**. The goldfinch challenges them to follow the same path he had flown: only the swallow demurs. The large bird strikes the glass and is knocked into a stupor. Thurber **tersely** observes that he who hesitates is sometimes saved.

1. Throughout his career, President Biden has been prone to verbal \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Many call Edward Snowden a hero, others a traitor, for \_\_\_\_\_ classified information.
3. Music and visual arts are ways of communicating what is \_\_\_\_\_ in words.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ Rickey Henderson was one of the most quotable athletes of his era.
5. It is perfectly normal to give \_\_\_\_\_ replies while concentrating.
6. Critics consider Roger Waters's later work with Pink Floyd too \_\_\_\_\_ for music.
7. garrulous \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** wordy
8. verbose \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** employing few words
9. ineffable \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** a mistake (often spoken)
10. divulge \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** chatty
11. gaffe \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to reveal often sensitive information
12. terse \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** cannot be expressed

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| 1. aver          | ***** <b>a.</b> talkative                             |
| 2. clamor        | ***** <b>b.</b> astonished                            |
| 3. concise       | ***** <b>c.</b> using an economy of words             |
| 4. curt          | ***** <b>d.</b> expressive in few words               |
| 5. demure        | ***** <b>e.</b> to explain in detail                  |
| 6. dissemble     | ***** <b>f.</b> short spoken word or sound            |
| 7. divulge       | ***** <b>g.</b> a fable                               |
| 8. explicate     | ***** <b>h.</b> chatty                                |
| 9. flabbergasted | ***** <b>i.</b> cannot be expressed                   |
| 10. gaffe        | ***** <b>j.</b> a mistake (often spoken)              |
| 11. garble       | ***** <b>k.</b> to reveal often sensitive information |
| 12. garrulous    | ***** <b>l.</b> not talkative                         |

13. ineffable	***** m. uproar
14. laconic	***** n. long-winded praise
15. loquacious	***** o. wordy
16. paean	***** p. to openly declare
17. parable	***** q. modest; unassuming
18. pithy	***** r. distort the sound of something
19. skeptical	***** s. dubious
20. sophistry	***** t. short to the point of rudeness
21. terse	***** u. word for word
22. utterance	***** v. employing few words
23. verbatim	***** w. to hide one's thoughts or feelings
24. verbose	***** x. the use of language to deceive or impress

### A TALE FROM THE MOORS

One of the most powerful and *disconcerting* novels ever written is the only exhibition of the writing *legerdemain* of Emily Brontë. Emily came from a family with a *disparate* measure of talent: her sisters, Charlotte and Anne, also published literary classics. The setting of her novel, *Wuthering Heights*, is the windswept Yorkshire region. The narrator, Mr. Lockwood, is the tenant of Thrushcross Grange, a handsome estate neighboring the *incongruous* Wuthering Heights, the home of his *enigmatic* landlord, Heathcliff. During a visit to the dilapidated Heights, Lockwood encounters a brutish young man, a haughty young girl, and the sullen, middle-aged Heathcliff. Forced by a blizzard to spend the night, Lockwood falls asleep in a small bedroom reading a diary from decades ago. Suddenly, he awakens to an *incoherent* vision of Catherine, the diary's author, begging entry at his window! He informs Heathcliff of this apparent nightmare, and the latter becomes greatly disturbed.

1. Richard Nixon, a flawed man of prodigious talent, was an \_\_\_\_\_ president.
2. Rodney's paper was so \_\_\_\_\_ its main thesis was hard to divine.
3. Humor was a powerful tool in Casey Stengel's managerial \_\_\_\_\_.
4. There is no more \_\_\_\_\_ image than that of violence on one's own streets.
5. The fraternal twins were so \_\_\_\_\_ in appearance as to seem unrelated.

6. Baseball struggles with woefully \_\_\_\_\_ payrolls among its teams.
7. disconcerting \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** puzzling; mysterious
8. legerdemain \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** incomprehensible
9. disparate \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** not matching
10. incongruous \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** dexterity; collection of skills
11. enigmatic \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** uneven
12. incoherent \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** unsettling

### THE NEW ARRIVAL

Lockwood finds his experience so **anomalous** that he determines to find out the history of the two estates. He asks Nelly, his housekeeper, who grew up at Wuthering Heights before becoming a servant herself. Her tale begins on the night 30 years earlier that Mr. Earnshaw returned from a trip with a scruffy, dark-haired boy he names Heathcliff. Without explaining the boy's **cryptic** origins, he declares that Heathcliff is to be raised alongside his own children. Heathcliff's relationships with the Earnshaw children are quite **divergent**. Catherine and Heathcliff, who are the same age, become inseparable. Hindley, however, Catherine's older brother, develops a jealousy **tinged** with hatred for his adoptive brother. Mr. Earnshaw's **indiscriminate** affection for Heathcliff only serves to further **contort** his firstborn son with rage.

1. World War II bombers caused \_\_\_\_\_ damage to military and civilian targets.
2. Welsh's voice was \_\_\_\_\_ with disgust when he rebuked McCarthy's indecency.
3. Stonehenge's \_\_\_\_\_ origins remain mysterious to this day.
4. History reveals that bipartisanship is more \_\_\_\_\_ than habitual.
5. After the map dried out, its pages were still \_\_\_\_\_ and warped.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ goals of the chairman and CEO led to the latter's dismissal.
7. anomalous \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** branching in different directions
8. cryptic \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** out of the ordinary

9. divergent \_\_\_\_\_ c. to bend out of shape  
10. tinge \_\_\_\_\_ d. ambiguous  
11. indiscriminate \_\_\_\_\_ e. without special consideration  
12. contort \_\_\_\_\_ f. to color or corrupt

### HINDLEY TAKES CHARGE

Heathcliff's life became easier when Hindley is sent off for a formal education. This proves to be an **atypical** respite, however, and due to extrinsic factors, it could not last. Mr. Earnshaw's sudden death makes Hindley master of Wuthering Heights. He returns, along with his young wife, and demotes Heathcliff to the role of servant. Though they are now heterogeneous in station, Catherine and Heathcliff remain close. One night, they sneak onto Thrushcross Grange, home of the Linton family, but are soon caught. Heathcliff, with his disheveled appearance and maladjusted temperament, is driven off. The Linton's bulldog catches Catherine, however, wounding her leg, and she is taken in to heal. While Catherine stays with the Lintons, she is struck by the dichotomy between the fine baroque style of their home and the plainness of Wuthering Heights. She is similarly charmed by their gentle manners. Edgar, the Linton's son, is, for his part, captivated by Catherine's beauty and spirited nature.

1. While social creatures, it is \_\_\_\_\_ of cats to hunt in groups.
  2. Some quip that a salad, not a melting pot, better symbolizes a country as \_\_\_\_\_ as the United States.
  3. The \_\_\_\_\_ between the ideas of Locke and Rousseau still divides intellectuals.
  4. Preference for \_\_\_\_\_ design was partly a reaction against Puritan simplicity.
  5. Court protocols were relaxed in an attempt to help the \_\_\_\_\_ princess.
  6. When examining Rome's fall, \_\_\_\_\_ factors should not be ignored.
7. atypical \_\_\_\_\_ a. unable to properly cope  
8. extrinsic \_\_\_\_\_ b. characterized by ornate design  
9. heterogeneous \_\_\_\_\_ c. a sharp contrast



10. maladjusted \_\_\_\_\_ d. unusual  
11. dichotomy \_\_\_\_\_ e. unessential  
12. baroque \_\_\_\_\_ f. mixed in composition

## CULTURE CLASH

Upon Catherine's return to Wuthering Heights, the Earnshaws invite Edgar and Isabella Linton for dinner. Hindley uses the evening as part of his *perverse* plan to humiliate Heathcliff. Hindley bars him from partaking in the *pungent* feast and joins in with Edgar in insulting him. To Catherine, who aspires to be more ladylike after her time with the Lintons, the *discrepancy* between Edgar and Heathcliff cannot be more stark. Soon after, Hindley's wife dies after giving birth; Hindley is crippled by grief and becomes increasingly *dissolute*. Despite Hindley's increasingly *aberrant* behavior, Edgar continues to court Catherine. One night, Catherine confides to Nelly that she has agreed to marry Edgar as she cannot marry Heathcliff in his *degenerate* state. Heathcliff overhears this and runs away—just before Catherine admits that her love for Heathcliff runs far deeper than her affection for Edgar.

1. Truffles are so \_\_\_\_\_ that too much can overpower any dish.
2. George III's \_\_\_\_\_ behavior eventually rendered him unfit to rule.
3. From a young age, Joy had a \_\_\_\_\_ interest in grisly murder stories.
4. The corrupt accountant could not explain the \_\_\_\_\_ in his clients' financials.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ organs like the tiny human tailbone are viewed as evidence of evolution.
6. Eleanor was the daughter of Theodore Roosevelt's \_\_\_\_\_ brother, Eliot, who died young from alcoholism.

7. perverse \_\_\_\_\_ a. given to self-destructive living  
8. pungent \_\_\_\_\_ b. contrary to normal standards  
9. discrepancy \_\_\_\_\_ c. ill-formed; degraded  
10. dissolute \_\_\_\_\_ d. different from expectations  
11. aberrant \_\_\_\_\_ e. strong in flavor or aroma

**12.** degenerate \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** a contradiction

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

<b>1.</b> aberrant	***** <b>a.</b> unsettling
<b>2.</b> anomalous	***** <b>b.</b> strong in flavor or aroma
<b>3.</b> atypical	***** <b>c.</b> dexterity; collection of skills
<b>4.</b> baroque	***** <b>d.</b> unusual
<b>5.</b> contort	***** <b>e.</b> to color or corrupt
<b>6.</b> cryptic	***** <b>f.</b> incomprehensible
<b>7.</b> degenerate	***** <b>g.</b> unable to properly cope
<b>8.</b> dichotomy	***** <b>h.</b> given to self-destructive living
<b>9.</b> disconcerting	***** <b>i.</b> contrary to normal standards
<b>10.</b> discrepancy	***** <b>j.</b> characterized by ornate design
<b>11.</b> disparate	***** <b>k.</b> a contradiction
<b>12.</b> dissolute	***** <b>l.</b> ambiguous
<b>13.</b> divergent	***** <b>m.</b> uneven
<b>14.</b> enigmatic	***** <b>n.</b> out of the ordinary
<b>15.</b> extrinsic	***** <b>o.</b> a sharp contrast
<b>16.</b> heterogeneous	***** <b>p.</b> different from expectations
<b>17.</b> incoherent	***** <b>q.</b> to bend out of shape
<b>18.</b> incongruous	***** <b>r.</b> mixed in composition
<b>19.</b> indiscriminate	***** <b>s.</b> branching in different directions
<b>20.</b> legerdemain	***** <b>t.</b> without special consideration
<b>21.</b> maladjusted	***** <b>u.</b> puzzling; mysterious
<b>22.</b> perverse	***** <b>v.</b> unessential
<b>23.</b> pungent	***** <b>w.</b> ill-formed; degraded
<b>24.</b> tinge	***** <b>x.</b> not matching

## HEATHCLIFF RETURNS

Heathcliff is away for three years. During his absence, Catherine and Edgar are married and living at Thrushcross Grange where Edgar is now master. Hindley's

drinking and **irascible** behavior have worsened, while his son Hareton is neglected. Heathcliff's return causes delight and **vexation**. He's somehow acquired a fortune and is now a social equal to the inhabitants of both households. Upon his first visit to Thrushcross Grange, Catherine is delighted to see him but feels **consternation** to learn that he's living at Wuthering Heights given the **asperity** of Hindley and Heathcliff's relationship. Edgar allows Heathcliff's visits but has misgivings. Isabella Linton, meanwhile, young and unmarried, is **inexorably** drawn to Heathcliff, who is confident and handsome. She **badgers** Catherine to allow her presence when Heathcliff visits.

1. My parents' \_\_\_\_\_ with my grades led them to ground me.
2. The estranged brothers couldn't converse without \_\_\_\_\_ in their voices.
3. John Adams was so \_\_\_\_\_ that he even quarreled with Ben Franklin.
4. Doctors felt \_\_\_\_\_ at the discovery that Covid-19 could be spread by the asymptomatic.
5. Micah's cat would often \_\_\_\_\_ her for extra food at night.
6. Big box retailers have been in \_\_\_\_\_ decline for some time.

- |                  |       |                             |
|------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| 7. irascible     | _____ | a. annoyance                |
| 8. vexation      | _____ | b. harshness                |
| 9. consternation | _____ | c. to pester                |
| 10. asperity     | _____ | d. worried astonishment     |
| 11. inexorable   | _____ | e. unstoppable; unavoidable |
| 12. badger       | _____ | f. easily angered           |

## THE CLASH

Catherine tries to warn Isabella about Heathcliff's **belligerent** nature but is **reproached** as selfish by her sister-in-law for the attempt. Catherine retaliates by revealing Isabella's feelings to Heathcliff, who decides to use Edgar's sister to exact revenge on his rival. After catching Heathcliff kissing Isabella, Catherine **accosts** him, knowing his feelings for Isabella are not genuine. Heathcliff replies that Catherine should not **begrudge** him the budding relationship since she chose Edgar over him. Nelly informs Edgar about this "argument" and, **irate**, he orders Heathcliff

off his property. After a humiliating confrontation in which Catherine sides with Heathcliff, Edgar bars him from Thrushcross Grange. In short order, Edgar's peaceful household erupts in **internecine** fighting.

1. The Thirty Years' War was the most \_\_\_\_\_ religious conflict in Europe's history.
2. After a two hour delay, an \_\_\_\_\_ passenger demanded to be let off the airplane.
3. Politicians complain about being \_\_\_\_\_ in public for their policy positions.
4. In the 1930s, Germany's \_\_\_\_\_ attitude toward other nations was obvious.
5. Duelists would not often \_\_\_\_\_ one another certain courtesies before combat.
6. Some public figures deserve \_\_\_\_\_ for their misdeeds, not ostracism.

- |                 |       |                              |
|-----------------|-------|------------------------------|
| 7. belligerent  | _____ | a. enraged                   |
| 8. reproach     | _____ | b. to verbally attack        |
| 9. accost       | _____ | c. to deny someone something |
| 10. begrudge    | _____ | d. warlike                   |
| 11. irate       | _____ | e. destructive; deadly       |
| 12. internecine | _____ | f. to scold                  |

### TRAGEDY STRIKES

Catherine's **paroxysm** of anger leads to a wasting sickness, which is complicated by the fact that she's pregnant. With Edgar distracted, Isabella elopes with Heathcliff whose coldness and cruelty toward her soon confirm Catherine's warnings.

Regarding her a substitute for her brother, he subjects Isabella to verbal **diatribes** during which he **rails** against Edgar. Learning of Catherine's condition, Heathcliff compels Nelly to arrange a reunion with Catherine. After Edgar bursts in, however, Catherine collapses and dies that night shortly after giving birth. Standing vigil outside, a distraught Heathcliff **inveighs** at Catherine's spirit to haunt him. On the night of the funeral, Isabella **nettles** Heathcliff by mocking his grief. **Livid**, he

attacks her. She flees to the seaside where she later gives birth to a son. Soon after, Hindley dies, having mortgaged Wuthering Heights to Heathcliff. This leaves Hareton a servant to his father's greatest enemy.

1. Cicero's many \_\_\_\_\_ against Mark Antony eventually led to his own execution.
2. Alexander the Great was so \_\_\_\_\_ by insulting remarks at his father's marriage to a new wife that he risked execution or banishment as retaliation.
3. Northerners were so \_\_\_\_\_ after Fort Sumter that many joined the Union army.
4. Many entitled actors have been reproached for their temperamental \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Carrie Nation is known for \_\_\_\_\_ at "demon rum" and trashing saloons.
6. Douglass \_\_\_\_\_ against the exclusion of African Americans from the army.
7. paroxysm \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to bother or unsettle
8. diatribe \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** furious
9. rail \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** to protest or complain about
10. inveigh \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** a violent emotional response
11. nettle \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to denounce
12. livid \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** an angry speech

## THE FINAL REVENGE

Over the next decade, Edgar dotes on his daughter, Cathy, who is beautiful but less **pugnacious** than her mother. Isabella spoils her sickly son, Linton, while Hareton becomes brutish and prone to the **invectives** he has learned from Heathcliff. After Isabella dies, Heathcliff seizes custody of his son. A few years later, Cathy encounters Heathcliff, who brings her to see Linton. Cathy, who does not know her uncle's true nature, **rebukes** Nelly for keeping Linton's whereabouts secret. Spurred on by Heathcliff, Linton sends love letters to his cousin and asks that they be allowed to see one another. Edgar, who is now dying of consumption, allows the relationship, hoping that Linton will take care of Cathy. Subjected to his father's **vitriolic** abuse,

Linton presses Cathy to marry him. Linton, however, is also sick, so Heathcliff imprisons Cathy and forces their marriage. After she **vituperates** against him for this treachery, he strikes her in a fit of **pique**. In short order, first Edgar dies and then Linton, and, thus, Heathcliff inherits Thrushcross Grange. Cathy, like Hareton, is now at the mercy of her father's enemy.

1. Kayleigh \_\_\_\_\_ her husband for his neglect of their son.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ language is so common that most online debates are overly fraught.
3. Ron's ears turn red every time he feels a spasm of \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Honey badgers are so \_\_\_\_\_ that they will attack lions.
5. Shrewd politicians know that \_\_\_\_\_ against the press won't change their stories.
6. Silas was fired after he accidentally sent an email full of \_\_\_\_\_ about the board.
  
7. pugnacious \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** critical language
8. invective \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** to reproach sternly
9. rebuke \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** harshly critical
10. vitriolic \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** combative
11. vituperate \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** sudden anger
12. pique \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** strongly blame or insult

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 1. accost        | ***** <b>a.</b> to reproach sternly      |
| 2. asperity      | ***** <b>b.</b> an angry speech          |
| 3. badger        | ***** <b>c.</b> harshly critical         |
| 4. begrudge      | ***** <b>d.</b> unstoppable; unavoidable |
| 5. belligerent   | ***** <b>e.</b> strongly blame or insult |
| 6. consternation | ***** <b>f.</b> warlike                  |
| 7. diatribe      | ***** <b>g.</b> enraged                  |
| 8. inexorable    | ***** <b>h.</b> easily angered           |
| 9. internecine   | ***** <b>i.</b> to scold                 |

<b>10.</b> invective	***** <b>j.</b> to bother or unsettle
<b>11.</b> inveigh	***** <b>k.</b> to verbally attack
<b>12.</b> irascible	***** <b>l.</b> harshness
<b>13.</b> irate	***** <b>m.</b> annoyance
<b>14.</b> livid	***** <b>n.</b> destructive; deadly
<b>15.</b> nettle	***** <b>o.</b> worried astonishment
<b>16.</b> paroxysm	***** <b>p.</b> to protest or complain about
<b>17.</b> pique	***** <b>q.</b> to deny someone something
<b>18.</b> pugnacious	***** <b>r.</b> combative
<b>19.</b> rail	***** <b>s.</b> a violent emotional response
<b>20.</b> rebuke	***** <b>t.</b> to pester
<b>21.</b> reproach	***** <b>u.</b> to denounce
<b>22.</b> vexation	***** <b>v.</b> sudden anger
<b>23.</b> vitriolic	***** <b>w.</b> furious
<b>24.</b> vituperate	***** <b>x.</b> critical language

## SELF-EVIDENT TRUTHS

In the 1770s, John Adams described the new nation he envisioned as “a republic of laws, not men.” He envisioned a society first in which the rights of all were **inviolable** because they were not a gift from princes but from God. Other thinkers defined the concept in **secular** terms: the preconditions necessary for the pursuit of happiness based on human nature itself. Jefferson’s justification for independence was that government could not rightly **mandate** that which is destructive to these rights or **proscribe** that which safeguards them. In the case that king or parliament **flout** this compact, the right of rebellion **supersedes** allegiance to the crown. Thus, the people are free to choose a new system in which the law is made by and applies to all citizens.

1. 1930s bank robbers were an FBI priority because they so publicly \_\_\_\_\_ the law.
2. Insider trading is \_\_\_\_\_ because otherwise private investors would be saddled with the consequences of company mistakes.

3. Federal law always \_\_\_\_\_ state law when the two conflict.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ marriages are often performed by local officials or judges.
5. Respecting embassies is the one \_\_\_\_\_ principle of diplomacy.
6. The judge \_\_\_\_\_ that Mr. Brown pay a fair amount of child support.

7. inviolable \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to take the place of
8. secular \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** cannot be broken
9. mandate \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** to openly violate
10. proscribe \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to order
11. flout \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** unrelated to religion
12. supersede \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** to prohibit

## SEPARATION OF POWERS

When the framers of the Constitution met in Philadelphia, it was uppermost in everyone's mind to create a government that was non-tyrannical. The framers held as **doctrine** the idea that there are three overarching functions of government: making law, executing law, and **adjudicating** disputes. In autocracies, these powers were invested in a single individual who ruled by **fiat**. In such a system, there is no mechanism to stop the **transgressions** of a tyrant. The Virginia plan, presented by James Madison, addressed this shortcoming by creating three branches of government for each of the three functions. Each branch was given the power to **sanction** or put into **abeyance** any abuses of the other two.

1. The defendant was charged with over 80 distinct \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. An \_\_\_\_\_ of the Olympic Games was held during both World Wars.
3. Heretics are defined as those who promote teachings contrary to religious \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. King Joffrey never learned his \_\_\_\_\_ meant nothing without others to enforce it.
5. Many recalcitrant nations have withstood UN \_\_\_\_\_ for years.
6. The Pope helped \_\_\_\_\_ the territorial dispute between Spain and Portugal.



7. doctrine \_\_\_\_\_ a. suspension  
8. adjudicate \_\_\_\_\_ b. a unilateral action  
9. fiat \_\_\_\_\_ c. a crime  
10. transgression \_\_\_\_\_ d. to assess a penalty; to approve  
11. sanction \_\_\_\_\_ e. a set of formal principles  
12. abeyance \_\_\_\_\_ f. to settle

## NEW JERSEY OBJECTS

New Jersey is the only state with a nationwide **prohibition** on motorists pumping their own gas. It, therefore, seems fitting that the principal objection to the Virginia plan was raised by an **emissary** from the Garden State, William Paterson. Paterson argued that a congress composed of a single chamber of delegates elected by population would be **manifestly** unfair to small states. At the nation's founding, each state considered the national government a voluntary **accord** between sovereign countries. Paterson asserted that states like New Jersey would be unwilling to give up autonomy only to have populous states **dictate** national policy. The solution arrived at was to add a second house, the Senate, where each state would have equal voice. According to this new **protocol**, both houses would need to assent to any law.

1. Churchill wrote volumes of history by
2. Wars have begun over breeches of etiquette committed by
3. Cheryl's qualifications were so \_\_\_\_\_ that her interview was a mere formality.
4. Roman \_\_\_\_\_ gave the people's tribunes veto power over Senate motions.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of gambling seems to be rolling back without debate.
6. Italy viewed its \_\_\_\_\_ with the Central Powers to be defensive only.

7. prohibition \_\_\_\_\_ a. obvious  
8. emissary \_\_\_\_\_ b. rules or accepted procedures  
9. manifest \_\_\_\_\_ c. agreement or treaty  
10. accord \_\_\_\_\_ d. ban

11. dictate \_\_\_\_\_ e. to command; to speak out loud

12. protocol \_\_\_\_\_ f. a representative

## IMPLIED POWERS

The Constitutional Convention was called because our first national government lacked the **requisite** power to be effective. Thus, one **criterion** for a new compact was fashioning a system with authority to meet all crises. After ratification, Federalists like Alexander Hamilton argued that government held all powers not forbidden to it. The implied powers argument can be seen in the doctrine of Judicial Review, which has given Supreme Court **precedent** the force of law. Some question the **propriety** of this since the justices are not elected. Court fans assert that as seasoned jurists with life tenure, the justices are truly impartial. Advocates point out the **decorum** of justices **abstaining** from cases they had once argued before joining the court.

1. Teachers socializing with students raises issues of academic \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Facing the Royal Navy offshore, New York \_\_\_\_\_ from the July 2nd vote.
3. Providing relevant evidence is a \_\_\_\_\_ for any effective argument.
4. Dora lacked the \_\_\_\_\_ calm an ER doctor needs to be effective.
5. Rick broke \_\_\_\_\_ by having his first drink with customers.
6. Breaches of \_\_\_\_\_ are actually common in the House of Commons.

7. requisite \_\_\_\_\_ a. an action that sets a standard

8. criterion \_\_\_\_\_ b. conforming to accepted norms

9. precedent \_\_\_\_\_ c. a requirement

10. propriety \_\_\_\_\_ d. etiquette

11. decorum \_\_\_\_\_ e. to withdraw or not participate

12. abstain \_\_\_\_\_ f. necessary

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. abeyance \*\*\*\*\* a. unrelated to religion

2. abstain \*\*\*\*\* b. ban

3. accord \*\*\*\*\* c. etiquette

4. adjudicate	***** d. obvious
5. criterion	***** e. to withdraw or not participate
6. decorum	***** f. to settle
7. dictate	***** g. to take the place of
8. doctrine	***** h. a unilateral action
9. emissary	***** i. to openly violate
10. fiat	***** j. a set of formal principles
11. flout	***** k. an action that sets a standard
12. inviolable	***** l. necessary
13. mandate	***** m. to command; to speak out loud
14. manifest	***** n. to order
15. precedent	***** o. to prohibit
16. prohibition	***** p. rules or accepted procedures
17. propriety	***** q. conforming to accepted norms
18. proscribe	***** r. agreement or treaty
19. protocol	***** s. a crime
20. requisite	***** t. suspension
21. sanction	***** u. to assess a penalty; to approve
22. secular	***** v. cannot be broken
23. supersede	***** w. a representative
24. transgression	***** x. a requirement

## OUR FINEST HOUR

An unforgettable saga of World War II has to do with the small French coastal town of Dunkirk. There, in 1940, thousands of British troops made a belated escape from the **domineering** German armed forces. They were removed by naval vessels **reinforced** by a fleet of private boats, from huge yachts to decrepit fishing boats. Of their own volition, the **redoubtable** skippers came close to the shore, seemingly **impervious** to the German bombers overhead. When their vessels were loaded, they dashed back to England. Once unloaded, the **flotilla** returned to rescue more men. The actions of these private citizens, like Churchill's pugnacious speeches,

helped to **fortify** the spirits of the British nation during one of its darkest hours.

1. Cleopatra's \_\_\_\_\_ was destroyed by the Roman fleet at Actium.
2. Grant was \_\_\_\_\_ : he might fail but would never panic.
3. Many cereals are artificially \_\_\_\_\_ with vitamins and minerals.
4. Children of \_\_\_\_\_ parents can become anxious or passive adults.
5. Teflon is the only material so \_\_\_\_\_ it can contain the strongest acids.
6. Concrete is much stronger when \_\_\_\_\_ with steel.

7. domineering \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** overbearing
8. reinforce \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** unable to be penetrated
9. redoubtable \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** a fleet of ships
10. impervious \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to strengthen
11. flotilla \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to defend; to augment
12. fortify \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** difficult to defeat

### SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVIL

The key to any great action or adventure story is the villain. The Romans knew this: accounts of their most **steadfast** adversary, Hannibal, were written by the Romans themselves. One might rightly question the fairness of a biography written by one's enemies, but Polybius and Tacitus went out of their way to describe what a **dynamic** commander Hannibal was, how **virile** his Carthaginian troops were, and what **behemoths** were his elephants. The reasoning for their praise is simple: the greatest glory for the **strapping** Roman heroes of old requires victory in the most **titanic** struggle against the deadliest enemy.

1. Compared with all other countries, Russia is a geographic \_\_\_\_\_ .
2. Through his writings about hunting, fishing, and bullfighting, Hemingway cultivated a \_\_\_\_\_
3. A \_\_\_\_\_ effort by dozens of scientists realized the Manhattan Project.
4. By harnessing the talents of ambitious rivals, Lincoln fashioned a \_\_\_\_\_ cabinet.
5. Theodore Roosevelt, while progressive, was a \_\_\_\_\_ and combative

imperialist.

6. Compared with his sickly cousin, Hareton was a \_\_\_\_\_ young man.

7. steadfast \_\_\_\_\_ a. strong and handsome

8. dynamic \_\_\_\_\_ b. a giant or monster

9. virile \_\_\_\_\_ c. unwavering

10. behemoth \_\_\_\_\_ d. gigantic

11. strapping \_\_\_\_\_ e. manly

12. titanic \_\_\_\_\_ f. versatile and energetic

### A FAMOUS MUTINY

One of the most repugnant names in popular legend is that of William Bligh, the captain of the HMS **Bounty**. The 1789 mutiny that erupted aboard that ship was the basis for a film in which Charles Laughton portrayed Bligh as an unmitigated **ruffian**. Anyone who challenged his **hegemony** was subjected to mental and physical torture. A **junta** formed among the crew with such an aversion to Bligh's command that they plotted a takeover of the ship. Led by Fletcher Christian, a cohort of **hale** and **sinewy** sailors overthrew the captain's **supremacy**, setting him and 17 shipmates adrift in a lifeboat in the South Pacific. The ship continued on to the Pitcairn Islands where the crew remained to live with the islanders.

1. The ruling \_\_\_\_\_ is notorious for brutality and corruption.

2. British \_\_\_\_\_ had given way to American dominance by World War II.

3. The wolf is a slender but \_\_\_\_\_ creature that is both fast and strong.

4. In a fascist society, the worst \_\_\_\_\_ tend to rise to the top.

5. The \_\_\_\_\_ of modern humans over Neanderthals has come into question.

6. John Adams remained \_\_\_\_\_ and vital into his 80s.

7. ruffian \_\_\_\_\_ a. power of one group over others

8. hegemony \_\_\_\_\_ b. healthy and energetic

9. junta \_\_\_\_\_ c. a thug or bully

10. hale \_\_\_\_\_ d. superiority over others

11. sinewy \_\_\_\_\_ e. an undemocratic regime

12. supremacy \_\_\_\_\_ f. strong and wiry

## THE LAST PLANTAGENET

The House of Plantagenet ruled England continuously until the deposition of Richard II in 1399. The War of the Roses followed, during which rival Plantagenet branches fought for the throne until 1471 when King Edward IV, a **brawny** and **vigorous** ruler, won final victory. Edward's war and subsequent reign were **undergirded** by the support of his brother, Richard, the future King Richard III. Richard III is best remembered as a hunchbacked villain, largely thanks to Shakespeare's histories.

While some facts **buttress** this assessment, the popular image is hardly **invulnerable**. Edward trusted Richard enough to name him protector of the realm until his own sons came of age. Richard immediately faced a **robust** threat from the queen's family, who sought power at the expense of Edward IV's blood relatives. Swift action stymied the coup. However, Richard went far beyond that, deposing his nephew and claiming the throne. The disappearance of the boy-king and his brother in the Tower was likely Richard's doing.

1. Earth's dense, liquid mantle \_\_\_\_\_ the crust of continents and the seafloor.

2. The hard-shelled ankylosaurus was practically \_\_\_\_\_ to attack.

3. Even \_\_\_\_\_ cleaning could not remove radioactivity from the ships contaminated in the Baker tests.

4. Despite a \_\_\_\_\_ colonial defense, the British ultimately captured Bunker Hill.

5. The

6. Using external arches to

7. brawny \_\_\_\_\_ a. to strengthen

8. vigorous \_\_\_\_\_ b. powerful; sturdy

9. undergird \_\_\_\_\_ c. strong and energetic

10. buttress \_\_\_\_\_ d. large; muscular

11. invulnerable \_\_\_\_\_ e. to support from below

**12. robust** \_\_\_\_\_ **f. cannot be harmed**

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| <b>1. behemoth</b>      | ***** <b>a. powerful; sturdy</b>               |
| <b>2. brawny</b>        | ***** <b>b. to defend; to augment</b>          |
| <b>3. buttress</b>      | ***** <b>c. to strengthen</b>                  |
| <b>4. domineering</b>   | ***** <b>d. power of one group over others</b> |
| <b>5. dynamic</b>       | ***** <b>e. unable to be penetrated</b>        |
| <b>6. flotilla</b>      | ***** <b>f. healthy and energetic</b>          |
| <b>7. fortify</b>       | ***** <b>g. superiority over others</b>        |
| <b>8. hale</b>          | ***** <b>h. strong and handsome</b>            |
| <b>9. hegemony</b>      | ***** <b>i. cannot be harmed</b>               |
| <b>10. impervious</b>   | ***** <b>j. overbearing</b>                    |
| <b>11. invulnerable</b> | ***** <b>k. a fleet of ships</b>               |
| <b>12. junta</b>        | ***** <b>l. strong and energetic</b>           |
| <b>13. redoubtable</b>  | ***** <b>m. versatile and energetic</b>        |
| <b>14. reinforce</b>    | ***** <b>n. gigantic</b>                       |
| <b>15. robust</b>       | ***** <b>o. to strengthen</b>                  |
| <b>16. ruffian</b>      | ***** <b>p. difficult to defeat</b>            |
| <b>17. sinewy</b>       | ***** <b>q. to support from below</b>          |
| <b>18. steadfast</b>    | ***** <b>r. an undemocratic regime</b>         |
| <b>19. strapping</b>    | ***** <b>s. a giant or monster</b>             |
| <b>20. supremacy</b>    | ***** <b>t. manly</b>                          |
| <b>21. titanic</b>      | ***** <b>u. strong and wiry</b>                |
| <b>22. undergird</b>    | ***** <b>v. large; muscular</b>                |
| <b>23. vigorous</b>     | ***** <b>w. a thug or bully</b>                |
| <b>24. virile</b>       | ***** <b>x. unwavering</b>                     |

## TEMPUS FUGIT

In one of his most famous skits, comedian George Carlin commented on the central ***paradox*** of the way humans perceive time: although stretching interminably into

the past and future, time is nothing more than a collection of fleeting moments.

1. If a certain amount of time \_\_\_\_\_ with the president ignoring a bill, it expires.
2. Some find a \_\_\_\_\_ that never varies to be comforting.
3. Cold Harbor was the only battle Grant regretted in \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. Since no snow days were used, the school year was \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Many lottery winners bemoan the \_\_\_\_\_ of becoming miserable millionaires.
6. After an \_\_\_\_\_ delay, the flight was cleared for takeoff.

7. paradox \_\_\_\_\_ a. never-ending
8. interminable \_\_\_\_\_ b. to shorten
9. elapse \_\_\_\_\_ c. an inherent contradiction
10. regimen \_\_\_\_\_ d. a routine
11. truncate \_\_\_\_\_ e. in hindsight
12. retrospect \_\_\_\_\_ f. to pass; to expire

### TIME BEFORE TIME

The **annals** of history go back no further than roughly 5,000 years because historiography requires the invention of writing. Prehistory, which may go back 100,000 years, is no mere **prelude** to the wars and king lists of the Bronze Age, however. Do we know nothing of this **defunct** world? Of course not. A **trove** of physical evidence has survived detailing the lives of humans in remote **antiquity**: their diet, dress, art, and social habits. We have also been able to re-create **obsolete** technologies, which reveal the surprising level of innovation of which our ancestors were capable. In fact, when history “began,” people were already farming, trading, and drinking beer in complex cities ruled by kings.

1. People alive during \_\_\_\_\_ held very different values and beliefs.
2. The thawing of Siberian permafrost has revealed \_\_\_\_\_ of ancient artifacts.
3. Because of their ingenuity and flaws, \_\_\_\_\_ mechanical devices are



fascinating.

4. Violence over the status of slavery in Kansas was a \_\_\_\_\_ to wider conflict.

5. The products of many \_\_\_\_\_ manufacturers are still sold secondhand online.

6. “Luminiferous ether,” a proposed medium in which light waves propagate, has joined the

7. annals \_\_\_\_\_ a. ancient times

8. prelude \_\_\_\_\_ b. no longer functioning

9. defunct \_\_\_\_\_ c. out of date

10. trove \_\_\_\_\_ d. archives

11. antiquity \_\_\_\_\_ e. a hidden treasure

12. obsolete \_\_\_\_\_ f. an opening move

### THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Nostalgia is a well-known psychological phenomenon. Pining for the days of our ancestors when things were “simpler” has become a passion of history lovers.

However, no amount of dress-up can bring back the zeitgeist of a past era when notions like belief in unfettered progress or repugnant racial theories were widely accepted. **Reminiscing** about lost youth is a favorite pastime of curmudgeons, right up there with dominoes. Even when the days of one’s youth were marked by deprivation, instead of having gratitude for present abundance, we **rue** the loss of thriftiness. Frustration with **antiquated** technologies is transformed into maudlin affection for their quaintness.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the medieval era held that death was always imminent.

2. Rail transport only becomes \_\_\_\_\_ if we fail to invest in its improvement.

3. A judge must consider whether a convict \_\_\_\_\_ his action or getting caught.

4. For team owners, the economic attractiveness of Los Angeles outweighed \_\_\_\_\_

5. Romeo's \_\_\_\_\_ for Rosaline is quickly forgotten when he meets Juliet.

6. Animosity forgotten, elderly Union and Confederate veterans would \_\_\_\_\_ about their wartime experiences.

7. nostalgia \_\_\_\_\_ a. the defining spirit of an era

8. pine \_\_\_\_\_ b. to remember fondly

9. zeitgeist \_\_\_\_\_ c. behind the times

10. reminisce \_\_\_\_\_ d. to regret

11. rue \_\_\_\_\_ e. sentimental attachment to the past

12. antiquated \_\_\_\_\_ f. to long for

### TOO LATE

The Galveston Hurricane of 1900 underscores the dangers of *belated* warnings. The U.S. Weather Bureau ignored *prognostications* from Cuban meteorologists that a storm passing into the Gulf of Mexico would grow monstrous and strike the Texas coast. U.S. experts *procrastinated* until the day the storm arrived before issuing a warning for Galveston. This came about not due to *clairvoyance*, but because ships encountering the storm reported its uncommon ferocity. Unfortunately, few in the city were *prescient* enough to evacuate; some even considered fine weather that morning to be an *auspice*. The result of this lack of foresight was the largest death toll of any disaster in U.S. history when the storm surge inundated the entire island city.

1. A few \_\_\_\_\_ leaders saw the Treaty of Versailles as a mere 20-year armistice.

2. An eagle with a serpent in its talons was considered a high \_\_\_\_\_ to the Greeks.

3. An adult realizes that to \_\_\_\_\_ is to cause more anxiety than it relieves.

4. Sansa's \_\_\_\_\_ thanks does little to thaw relations with the queen.

5. Con men research their marks, learning enough to appear truly \_\_\_\_\_.

6. As late as 1928, many economists continued to \_\_\_\_\_ an endless boom.

7. belated \_\_\_\_\_ a. to postpone

- 8.** prognosticate \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** able to foresee future events supernaturally
- 9.** procrastinate \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** a sign of good fortune
- 10.** clairvoyant \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to predict
- 11.** prescient \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** tardy
- 12.** auspice \_\_\_\_\_

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- 1.** annals \*\*\*\*\* **a.** a routine
- 2.** antiquated \*\*\*\*\* **b.** to regret
- 3.** antiquity \*\*\*\*\* **c.** tardy
- 4.** auspice \*\*\*\*\* **d.** to pass; to expire
- 5.** belated \*\*\*\*\* **e.** to shorten
- 6.** clairvoyant \*\*\*\*\* **f.** to long for
- 7.** defunct \*\*\*\*\* **g.** a sign of good fortune
- 8.** elapse \*\*\*\*\* **h.** to postpone
- 9.** interminable \*\*\*\*\* **i.** archives
- 10.** nostalgia \*\*\*\*\* **j.** sentimental attachment to the past
- 11.** obsolete \*\*\*\*\* **k.** able to predict based on present facts
- 12.** paradox \*\*\*\*\* **l.** behind the times
- 13.** pine \*\*\*\*\* **m.** no longer functioning
- 14.** prelude \*\*\*\*\* **n.** ancient times
- 15.** prescient \*\*\*\*\* **o.** a hidden treasure
- 16.** procrastinate \*\*\*\*\* **p.** out of date
- 17.** prognosticate \*\*\*\*\* **q.** never-ending
- 18.** regimen \*\*\*\*\* **r.** an inherent contradiction
- 19.** reminisce \*\*\*\*\* **s.** to predict
- 20.** retrospect \*\*\*\*\* **t.** to remember fondly
- 21.** rue \*\*\*\*\* **u.** in hindsight
- 22.** trove \*\*\*\*\* **v.** the defining spirit of an era
- 23.** truncate \*\*\*\*\* **w.** an opening move

## STANDING OUT FROM THE CROWD

Fungible products are those that are practically interchangeable. Many of the products we **imbibe** fall under this heading. Manufacturers are forever **afflicted** with the fear that a successful product will soon appear old and spartan, so they come out with “new and improved” versions. Sometimes it is only a box or package that has been changed—perhaps a colorful photo of a succulent meal on a frozen dinner box. Some products peddle an image. For example, shaving cream makers project an image of their users as strapping and ruddy, while those that use “the other brand” are gaunt bookworms with atrophied muscles.

1. Romeo \_\_\_\_\_ poison just before Juliet wakes up.
2. The cold air made Beverly’s cheeks so \_\_\_\_\_ the portrait was ruined.
3. Some talents may \_\_\_\_\_ from disuse but never really desert us.
4. Before receiving a transfusion, Nadia’s face had a \_\_\_\_\_ look.
5. The cheapest youth hostels have decidedly \_\_\_\_\_ accommodations.
6. Those in the tropics are often \_\_\_\_\_ by mosquito-borne diseases.
7. imbibe \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to trouble or cause pain
8. afflict \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** bare; uncomfortable
9. spartan \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** drink or consume
10. ruddy \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** pale and sickly
11. gaunt \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** weaken by disuse
12. atrophy \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** red-faced

## PHARMACEUTICAL HALLUCINATIONS

If you watch enough commercials by major drug-makers, it almost seems as if those suffering terrible **maladies** are being offered a life better than the one they had before getting sick. No matter whether the drug in question palliates suffering from rheumatism or offers a few extra months of longevity to those suffering malignant tumors. The shop-worn visual clichés in drug commercials of running through fields of flowers or playing softball with grandkids promise a panacea—regardless of which

drug is being peddled. The juxtaposition of a voiceover detailing potentially debilitating side effects underscores the inauthenticity of this style of advertising.

1. Quinine was a tragic \_\_\_\_\_, so effective at treating malaria that it opened up Africa to conquest.
2. Finding a medicine to \_\_\_\_\_ migraines can change the lives of sufferers.
3. Although \_\_\_\_\_ by abdominal cancer, Matisse created vibrant “cut-out” artworks.
4. Ty Cobb’s \_\_\_\_\_ personality may explain why his team failed to win a title.
5. Queen Elizabeth’s \_\_\_\_\_ has made her the icon of an age.
6. Genetic \_\_\_\_\_, though incurable, are now increasingly treatable.

7. malady \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to soothe without curing
8. palliate \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** destructive; harmful
9. longevity \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** a sickness
10. malignant \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to handicap
11. panacea \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** length of life
12. debilitate \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** a cure-all

### “TRIED AND TRUE”

At one time, before the advent of radio, products were advertised on the merits of their “tried and true” qualities. Such advertising assumed pragmatic consumers, **abstemious** in consumption, **repose** dictated by the cycle of night and day. They were usually in fine **fettle**, though **masticating** with poor teeth and subject to **virulent** pathogens. Manufacturers did not presume to tell such stolid folk what they should want, but catered to what they needed: cereal grains for nourishment, wool for warmth, and gauze for **lacerations**. The inventory of the grocer was carefully limited to meet demand. Advertising reversed this relationship, enticing increased demand to meet the dizzying volume of goods supplied by an industrial economy.

1. The most \_\_\_\_\_ germs are those that are most novel to our systems.

2. War allows little \_\_\_\_\_ for soldiers who must remain vigilant.
  3. Without antibiotics, every \_\_\_\_\_ is potentially fatal.
  4. Clementine's horses were in such poor \_\_\_\_\_ that she rested them for days.
  5. Cows are famous for their long, patient \_\_\_\_\_ of fibrous grasses.
  6. Churchill, a drinker and smoker who lived to be 90, defied the maxim that only the
- 
7. abstemious \_\_\_\_\_ a. to chew
  8. repose \_\_\_\_\_ b. a cut
  9. fettle \_\_\_\_\_ c. rest
  10. masticate \_\_\_\_\_ d. moderate in consumption
  11. virulent \_\_\_\_\_ e. condition or health
  12. laceration \_\_\_\_\_ f. powerful; deadly

### WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Supermarkets often carry their own products to compete with the national brands. These "house" brands are in an **adverse** position because they cannot be advertised widely. Supermarkets overcome this **deficiency** by making these brands less expensive. Many people believe the aphorism "You get what you pay for," and they purchase items on the premise that the quality is **degraded** at lower price points. Are the **gallant** boasts of nationally advertised brands bogus? How can one bread company prove its product is more **salubrious** than another? As there is no incontrovertible evidence, the more expensive bread (or coffee, etc.) must compensate by making inordinate claims to convince the **austere** consumer to switch.

1. The Mediterranean diet has been touted for its \_\_\_\_\_ effects.
2. Unlike the mud-covered infantry, WWI pilots were celebrated as \_\_\_\_\_ heroes.
3. Candidates employ strategists to handle \_\_\_\_\_ publicity.
4. Protestant churches of the seventeenth century were highly \_\_\_\_\_ , a reaction to the baroque character of Renaissance Catholic churches.
5. Recognizing his \_\_\_\_\_ as a leader, Tommy preferred to be a loner.

6. After a century under water, the Titanic has \_\_\_\_\_ to the point of dissolution.

7. adverse \_\_\_\_\_ a. flaw; shortcoming

8. deficiency \_\_\_\_\_ b. healthy

9. degrade \_\_\_\_\_ c. unfavorable

10. gallant \_\_\_\_\_ d. severe; plain

11. salubrious \_\_\_\_\_ e. to break down; to humiliate

12. austere \_\_\_\_\_ f. brave and daring

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. abstemious \*\*\*\*\* a. rest

2. adverse \*\*\*\*\* b. to handicap

3. afflict \*\*\*\*\* c. a cut

4. atrophy \*\*\*\*\* d. powerful; deadly

5. austere \*\*\*\*\* e. destructive; harmful

6. debilitate \*\*\*\*\* f. red-faced

7. deficiency \*\*\*\*\* g. healthy

8. degrade \*\*\*\*\* h. unfavorable

9. fettle \*\*\*\*\* i. pale and sickly

10. gallant \*\*\*\*\* j. moderate in consumption

11. gaunt \*\*\*\*\* k. brave and daring

12. imbibe \*\*\*\*\* l. bare; uncomfortable

13. laceration \*\*\*\*\* m. to soothe without curing

14. longevity \*\*\*\*\* n. a sickness

15. malady \*\*\*\*\* o. weaken by disuse

16. malignant \*\*\*\*\* p. to break down; to humiliate

17. masticate \*\*\*\*\* q. to chew

18. palliate \*\*\*\*\* r. a cure-all

19. panacea \*\*\*\*\* s. drink or consume

20. repose \*\*\*\*\* t. condition or health

21. ruddy \*\*\*\*\* u. to trouble or cause pain

22. salubrious \*\*\*\*\* v. length of life

23. spartan \*\*\*\*\* w. severe; plain

24. virulent \*\*\*\*\* x. flaw; shortcoming

## YOU CAN'T HELP BUT WATCH

The consumer is in a quandary **discerning** the best selection among the array of products. The advertisers must **convert** the consumer to their brand, and often they do it in the most crass and **overt** ways. Manufacturers have ascertained that television is the most effective way to reach a mass audience; therefore, consumer messaging permeates television. Through their studies delving into the human psyche, advertisers are able to craft messages that are both persuasive and difficult to ignore.

1. If banks

2. Republics persist as long as

3. Dissatisfaction \_\_\_\_\_ the team culture until the coach lost all control.

4. Humans have \_\_\_\_\_ the ocean deeps less than the reaches of space.

5. A camouflaged warship is harder to \_\_\_\_\_ on the horizon.

6. A zealot is rarely someone who has been \_\_\_\_\_ to a faith by force.

7. discern \_\_\_\_\_ a. open; obvious

8. convert \_\_\_\_\_ b. perceive the difference

9. overt \_\_\_\_\_ c. spread throughout

10. ascertain \_\_\_\_\_ d. cause to change; win over

11. permeate \_\_\_\_\_ e. to dive deeply

12. delve \_\_\_\_\_ f. figure out

## BUREAU OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

The power of advertising was discovered when the United States government set its collective mind to **eliciting** public support for the First World War. After the U.S. entered the fray in the spring of 1917, President Woodrow Wilson immediately realized he had an image problem: his 1916 reelection campaign had **candidly**



boasted that he had kept the country out of war! To overcome, he named George Creel, a man who was the **epitome** of **cogent** and persuasive messaging, the Director of Public Information. Soon posters like the famous portrait of Uncle Sam with the **glib** slogan “I want you for the U.S. army!” were everywhere. Creel also conceived of the “Four Minute Men,” community leaders who would give four-minute speeches during movie intermissions about why the war was **germane** to American lives.

1. In a time when people want authenticity, a \_\_\_\_\_ campaign slogan will fail.
2. In the 1960s, Steve McQueen, tough and flinty, was the \_\_\_\_\_ of cool.
3. Pundits quash scandal by bringing up misdeeds not \_\_\_\_\_ to the controversy.
4. To \_\_\_\_\_ meaningful class participation, avoid yes or no questions.
5. Suspects without counsel are advised not to be too \_\_\_\_\_ with detectives.
6. A sophist is an expert at presenting a \_\_\_\_\_ defense of an absurd position.

- |             |       |                             |
|-------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| 7. elicit   | _____ | a. clear and persuasive     |
| 8. candid   | _____ | b. articulate but insincere |
| 9. epitome  | _____ | c. relevant                 |
| 10. cogent  | _____ | d. open and honest          |
| 11. glib    | _____ | e. the ideal example        |
| 12. germane | _____ | f. to encourage a response  |

## THE PROPAGANDA COUP

Creel’s campaign was so effective at convincing the public that the rationale for the war was **incontrovertible** that the army was soon awash in volunteers.

Unfortunately, with such passions aroused, many **construed** the call to action as permission to badger German-Americans. Later, when the draft was instituted, Creel created newsreels from which people **gleaned** the false notion that the “selective service” program **denoted** another form of volunteering. When more foodstuffs

were needed for the army, Creel's messaging never **enunciated** the word "rationing," instead encouraging the home front to regard participation in "Meatless Mondays" and "Wheatless Wednesdays" as **pertinent** ways of fighting the war.

1. It's not necessary to \_\_\_\_\_ every syllable clearly in a song.
2. Sherlock Holmes \_\_\_\_\_ far more data from a crime scene than the police.
3. Joan's skills turned out to be highly \_\_\_\_\_ to her success in the competition.
4. Conspiracists \_\_\_\_\_ nefarious plots in chains of loosely connected events.
5. The number of stars \_\_\_\_\_ a general's rank.
6. Negatives can't be proven, thus denial of the supernatural is not technically \_\_\_\_\_ .

- |                     |       |   |
|---------------------|-------|---|
| 7. incontrovertible | _____ | a. to indicate                          |
| 8. construe         | _____ | b. related; appropriate                 |
| 9. glean            | _____ | c. to announce; to speak clearly        |
| 10. denote          | _____ | d. to perceive from limited information |
| 11. enunciate       | _____ | e. cannot be disproven                  |
| 12. pertinent       | _____ | f. gain information or understanding    |

## PERFECTING THE MACHINE

After the successes of the BPI, the same methods were employed after the U.S. entered World War II. Everyone got the **gist** of why we were fighting Japan—**alluding** to the name Pearl Harbor was sufficient to rouse passions. A pressing need was to **elucidate** the reasons for fighting Germany. Some of America's best filmmakers, like Frank Capra and John Huston, created propaganda films **delineating** the horrors of the Nazi regime. Waging a worldwide conflict also meant **reinvigorating** an economy shuttered since the Depression for the production of armaments. The image of Rosie the Riveter is an enduring legacy of the propaganda effort on the home front. Posters, events, and short films on the need for rationing and investing in war bonds were also wildly successful. The success of the postwar

economy was **derived** from the savings Americans—habitual consumers—accumulated by following the directives of wartime propaganda.

1. The time-out served to \_\_\_\_\_ the defense, which forced a game-saving fumble.
2. Mark Antony's funeral oration \_\_\_\_\_ the reasoning behind Caesar's actions so successfully that the Optimates who killed the dictator fled in terror.
3. The poems of T. S. Eliot \_\_\_\_\_ to so many classical references that they are best read with an encyclopedia at one's side.
4. Preserving slavery was the true \_\_\_\_\_ of the Confederate cause.
5. Jefferson argues government power is \_\_\_\_\_ from the consent of the governed.
6. Daniel Burnham would \_\_\_\_\_ in words what Root's blueprints could not.

- |                  |       |                                      |
|------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 7. gist          | _____ | <b>a.</b> to arise from              |
| 8. allude        | _____ | <b>b.</b> to express precisely       |
| 9. elucidate     | _____ | <b>c.</b> to give new life           |
| 10. delineate    | _____ | <b>d.</b> the substance of something |
| 11. reinvigorate | _____ | <b>e.</b> to make clear              |
| 12. derive       | _____ | <b>f.</b> to make reference to       |

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |              |       |   |
|--------------|-------|---|
| 1. allude    | ***** | <b>a.</b> gain information or understanding |
| 2. ascertain | ***** | <b>b.</b> cause to change; win over         |
| 3. candid    | ***** | <b>c.</b> to make reference to              |
| 4. cogent    | ***** | <b>d.</b> to announce; to speak clearly     |
| 5. construe  | ***** | <b>e.</b> articulate but insincere          |
| 6. convert   | ***** | <b>f.</b> relevant                          |
| 7. delineate | ***** | <b>g.</b> perceive the difference           |
| 8. delve     | ***** | <b>h.</b> the substance of something        |
| 9. denote    | ***** | <b>i.</b> to make clear                     |

10. derive	***** <b>j.</b> to indicate
11. discern	***** <b>k.</b> to perceive from limited information
12. elicit	***** <b>l.</b> to express precisely
13. elucidate	***** <b>m.</b> to encourage a response
14. enunciate	***** <b>n.</b> open and honest
15. epitome	***** <b>o.</b> related; appropriate
16. germane	***** <b>p.</b> to give new life
17. gist	***** <b>q.</b> spread throughout
18. glean	***** <b>r.</b> open; obvious
19. glib	***** <b>s.</b> cannot be disproven
20. incontrovertible	***** <b>t.</b> figure out
21. overt	***** <b>u.</b> the ideal example
22. permeate	***** <b>v.</b> to arise from
23. pertinent	***** <b>w.</b> to dive deeply
24. reinvigorate	***** <b>x.</b> clear and persuasive

## LIGHT IS NOT ENOUGH

When the speed of light was first computed, scientists recognized it to be a velocity **inordinate** to that of any known object. Einstein later proved that light speed is **ubiquitous**, unaffected by the motion of the source from which it is **emanating**. His mathematics also demonstrated light speed to be an unreachable limit. Due to an **array** of discoveries, astronomers simultaneously began to comprehend the vastness of space. Edwin Hubble discovered that our nearest galactic neighbor, Andromeda, is two million light-years away. Since that time, scientists have dealt with a paradox: the universe **abounds** with objects too far to reach, while our world is **saturated** with light that has taken eons to arrive.

1. By adolescence, Mozart had already composed an impressive \_\_\_\_\_ of music.
2. Rumors that America \_\_\_\_\_ with gold proved to be unfounded.
3. Prices crash when the market is \_\_\_\_\_ with supply.
4. Punitive damages may seem \_\_\_\_\_ but are meant to deter future crimes.

5. The sounds that \_\_\_\_\_ from a laboring person can be unearthly.
6. Cell towers are \_\_\_\_\_ on the coasts but rarer in the rural interior.
7. inordinate \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** an impressive display
8. ubiquitous \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** occur in large quantity
9. emanate \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** out of proportion
10. array \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** fill beyond capacity
11. abound \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to flow from
12. saturate \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** to be found everywhere

### LIFE ABOUNDS

Earth is so **inundated** with life that life forms have altered the planet. Photosynthesis is so effective that the **extraneous** oxygen has changed the composition of the atmosphere. Before this change, iron-rich rocks did not rust, and the dominant species were anaerobic bacteria. The **concomitant** binding of atmospheric carbon in living tissues proved to be an **unmitigated** loss of a crucial greenhouse gas, beginning a cycle of wild climatic swings. Thanks to genetic mutation and natural selection, however, life has proven a **consummate** survivor of climate fluctuation. Since the Cambrian explosion, **myriad** forms of life have arisen to exploit the opportunities that have followed mass extinction events.

1. The Ford Edsel proved to be an \_\_\_\_\_ disaster.
2. Army-Navy stores sell \_\_\_\_\_ supplies not required by the armed forces.
3. Egyptian farmers once relied on the Nile to annually \_\_\_\_\_ their fields.
4. Charles Lindbergh ultimately rued the fame \_\_\_\_\_ with his achievement.
5. Teachers hear \_\_\_\_\_ excuses from their students for late assignments.
6. Christy Mathewson was such a \_\_\_\_\_ gentlemen that his death was mourned by all of baseball.

7. inundate \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** without compensation; total
8. extraneous \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** extremely skilled; perfect
9. concomitant \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** more than necessary
10. unmitigated \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** great in number

11. consummate \_\_\_\_\_ e. accompanying

12. myriad \_\_\_\_\_ f. to flood

## FEEDING THE MASSES

The rise of cities, with their *manifold* benefits and drawbacks, began with food surpluses. When each person was needed to farm in order for a whole community to survive, there was little time to do anything else. Once crop yields were so *bounteous* that extra farmhands were *superfluous*, however, it allowed for the development of specialist workers like craftsmen and artisans. Yields that were truly *copious* allowed for trade with neighboring communities for *succulent* delicacies and *epicurean* luxuries. Thus, economics was born.

1. Many creatures produce \_\_\_\_\_ eggs to ensure survival of some offspring.

2. College is an environment with \_\_\_\_\_ distractions.

3. A slow-roasted steak is a truly \_\_\_\_\_ entrée.

4. Roman conservatives like Cato lamented the adoption of \_\_\_\_\_ tastes in the city.

5. Even a superficial head wound is usually accompanied by \_\_\_\_\_ bleeding.

6. This year's Thanksgiving feast was so \_\_\_\_\_ that dessert was barely touched.

7. manifold \_\_\_\_\_ a. surplus

8. bounteous \_\_\_\_\_ b. abundant

9. superfluous \_\_\_\_\_ c. tender and juicy

10. copious \_\_\_\_\_ d. pleasure-loving

11. succulent \_\_\_\_\_ e. in generous quantity

12. epicurean \_\_\_\_\_ f. numerous

## MARKETPLACE OF CIVILIZATION

Trade *enhances* both the space and time of the urban environment. In Turkey, a land at the intersection of trade routes, every town is *replete* with an open-air market, which serves as the climax to every week. In fact, the Turkish name for

Sunday, **pazar**, means “market day.” In Istanbul, not only does each neighborhood hold its own bazaar, but there’s also a **plethora** of permanent institutions. The Spice Bazaar, located on the opposite end of the city’s busiest bridge, is **redolent** with the smells of Turkey’s most treasured trade goods: pistachios, dried apricots, figs, tea, and cumin. A mile away lies the Grand Bazaar, a warren of passageways **rife** with trade. Here merchants and shoppers engage, with **profuse** swearing and gesturing, in the time-honored ritual of haggling over everything from hookahs and tea sets to leather purses and engagement rings.

1. The interior of my father’s work van was \_\_\_\_\_ with nostalgic smells.
2. The wealthiest, most \_\_\_\_\_ donors have inordinate political influence.
3. The young couple’s bridal purse was \_\_\_\_\_ with generous gifts.
4. With modern software, the once-grainy image had been greatly \_\_\_\_\_ .
5. Small children often feel overwhelmed when presented with a \_\_\_\_\_ of options.
6. New York society was \_\_\_\_\_ with gossip after the murder of Stanford White.

7. enhance \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** plentiful amount
8. replete \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** filled with the odor of something
9. plethora \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** prevalent; common
10. redolent \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** overflowing with
11. rife \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to improve or refine
12. profuse \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** equipped with

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. abound \*\*\*\*\* **a.** filled with the odor of something
2. array \*\*\*\*\* **b.** fill beyond capacity
3. bounteous \*\*\*\*\* **c.** overflowing with
4. concomitant \*\*\*\*\* **d.** to flood
5. consummate \*\*\*\*\* **e.** to flow from
6. copious \*\*\*\*\* **f.** abundant

7. emanate	***** <b>g.</b> without compensation; total
8. enhance	***** <b>h.</b> out of proportion
9. epicurean	***** <b>i.</b> extremely skilled; perfect
10. extraneous	***** <b>j.</b> prevalent; common
11. inordinate	***** <b>k.</b> numerous
12. inundate	***** <b>l.</b> in generous quantity
13. manifold	***** <b>m.</b> pleasure-loving
14. myriad	***** <b>n.</b> plentiful amount
15. plethora	***** <b>o.</b> accompanying
16. profuse	***** <b>p.</b> to be found everywhere
17. redolent	***** <b>q.</b> more than necessary
18. replete	***** <b>r.</b> surplus
19. rife	***** <b>s.</b> great in number
20. saturate	***** <b>t.</b> occur in large quantity
21. succulent	***** <b>u.</b> tender and juicy
22. superfluous	***** <b>v.</b> an impressive display
23. ubiquitous	***** <b>w.</b> equipped with
24. unmitigated	***** <b>x.</b> to improve or refine

## HAVE WE MASTERED OUR ENVIRONMENT?

Natural disasters tend to leave the best efforts of mankind in **disarray**. It is as though **tumultuous** forces are contemptuous of our proud achievements.

Hurricanes, arising from **turbulent** air on the other side of the Atlantic, unleash **pandemonium** along our coasts. Those living along fault lines face the **conundrum** of when the next earthquake will strike. A more patient **phenomenon**, drought, is an implacable enemy of agriculture as well as the fuel for conflagrations.

1. Fenway Park was in a state of \_\_\_\_\_ after Fisk's famous World Series home run.

2. A total eclipse is the most astounding astronomical \_\_\_\_\_ one can witness.



3. Passage of the Civil Rights Act was one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ acts of legislation in congressional history.
4. Fort Ticonderoga was in such \_\_\_\_\_ it could not repel an attack.
5. FDR faced the \_\_\_\_\_ of preparing a nation with an isolationist people for war.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ cultural rift that opened in the 1960s has never fully healed.
7. disarray \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** unsteady; violent
8. tumultuous \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** ruin; disorder
9. turbulent \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** singular occurrence
10. pandemonium \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** dilemma
11. conundrum \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** full of uproar
12. phenomenon \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** total chaos

### WHO CAN YOU TRUST?

Societies go **awry** when sources of trustworthy information are discredited. Documents leaked during the Vietnam War showed that top officials were offering rosy prognostications to the press long after privately admitting the conflict was a fiasco. Later, President Nixon's recorded conversations revealed that he had lied about his knowledge of the Watergate break-in. Scientists have lent their credentials to **tortuous** studies denying the harm of tobacco use. Media have prioritized sensationalism—**impromptu** scandals or celebrity gossip—over dry, often **unwieldy**, policy concerns. It's no wonder, then, that people have turned to the Internet in an attempt to access unfiltered information. Unfortunately, the web is a **cacophony** of voices, and many are lured by the loudest or those that tell them what they want to hear. A society in which each person feels entitled to their own facts is a **bedlam** in which nothing is certain.

1. Unlike the mellifluous harmonies of Beethoven's Ninth, \_\_\_\_\_ denotes sonic discord.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ would be one way to describe a sword too heavy to be swung.
3. Without its prefix, the root of \_\_\_\_\_ describes an ironic smile.
4. \_\_\_\_\_, a word that better describes mountain roads, has nothing to do with

pain.

5. An \_\_\_\_\_ speech, given without electronic cues, can be refreshingly candid.

6. The noun \_\_\_\_\_ has no roots but refers to a notorious London lunatic asylum.

7. awry \_\_\_\_\_ a. awkward; heavy

8. tortuous \_\_\_\_\_ b. madness

9. impromptu \_\_\_\_\_ c. off kilter

10. unwieldy \_\_\_\_\_ d. full of twists and turns

11. cacophony \_\_\_\_\_ e. spontaneous

12. bedlam \_\_\_\_\_ f. unpleasant noise

### EVIDENCE OF ABSENCE

Believers in the **occult** need never fear disillusionment because of one simple principle: absence of evidence is not evidence of absence. In practical terms, it means that proving that something does not exist, no matter how **absurd**, is next to impossible. **Apocryphal** sightings of the Loch Ness Monster will never stop **hoodwinking** the credulous unless we are willing to drain the 263 million cubic feet of water in the Scottish lake. Even that probably would not do it. However **jarring** it may seem in a scientific world, belief in the fantastic is a common **peccadillo**. Some people would just rather live in a world where monsters could exist.

1. Awakening from intubation is a \_\_\_\_\_ experience.

2. During the demonstration, the pickpocket \_\_\_\_\_ a dozen FBI trainees.

3. Abstract art uses \_\_\_\_\_ images to convey dreams, movement, or emotions.

4. Interest in the \_\_\_\_\_ arose concomitantly with scientific advancement.

5. Criminals are sometimes tracked because of \_\_\_\_\_ like tearing up matchbooks.

6. \_\_\_\_\_ tales, like the legend of the Flying Dutchman, are part of sea lore.

7. occult \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** illogical  
8. absurd \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** unnerving  
9. apocryphal \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** a minor fault  
10. hoodwink \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** the supernatural  
11. jarring \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** of doubtful origin  
12. peccadillo \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** to trick

## THE POWER OF LAUGHTER

Charlie Chaplin's "The Great Dictator" was a devastating **satire** that invited audiences to laugh at the ridiculousness of fascist dictators. The absurdity of Hitler and Mussolini's theatrics had hitherto been **occluded** by the fear they inspired. Chaplin's **mordant** wit, however, transformed them into clowns, in the process inspiring resistance to their tyranny. In this way, humor often constitutes the earliest, **inchoate** phase of rebellion. The **acerbic** pens of Voltaire, Mencken, and Wilde were frontline weapons aimed at the pretensions of would-be strongmen. The shrill laugh, a defiant battle cry rising above the **welter** of shouts proclaiming "you may take our lives, but we will never take you seriously!"

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ solar system had many protoplanets that were destroyed or ejected.
2. Ben's self-esteem was destroyed by years of his father's \_\_\_\_\_ comments.
3. Calvin and Hobbes's \_\_\_\_\_ humor is best recognized by parents.
4. A fumble is always followed by a \_\_\_\_\_ of strong bodies grasping for a ball.
5. Compared with slapstick comedy, \_\_\_\_\_ is characterized by subtle wordplay.
6. Recent studies suggest that the star Betelgeuse was \_\_\_\_\_ by a gas cloud.

7. satire \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** a mass of confusion  
8. occlude \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** barely formed  
9. mordant \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** a form of humor that ridicules  
10. inchoate \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to hide or block  
11. acerbic \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** humorously critical

12. welter \_\_\_\_\_ f. cutting

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

- |                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| 1. absurd       | ***** a. humorously critical            |
| 2. acerbic      | ***** b. to trick                       |
| 3. apocryphal   | ***** c. awkward; heavy                 |
| 4. awry         | ***** d. barely formed                  |
| 5. bedlam       | ***** e. unsteady; violent              |
| 6. cacophony    | ***** f. a minor fault                  |
| 7. conundrum    | ***** g. to hide or block               |
| 8. disarray     | ***** h. total chaos                    |
| 9. hoodwink     | ***** i. a form of humor that ridicules |
| 10. impromptu   | ***** j. the supernatural               |
| 11. inchoate    | ***** k. cutting                        |
| 12. jarring     | ***** l. off kilter                     |
| 13. mordant     | ***** m. of doubtful origin             |
| 14. occlude     | ***** n. spontaneous                    |
| 15. occult      | ***** o. dilemma                        |
| 16. pandemonium | ***** p. full of uproar                 |
| 17. peccadillo  | ***** q. madness                        |
| 18. phenomenon  | ***** r. singular occurrence            |
| 19. satire      | ***** s. ruin; disorder                 |
| 20. tortuous    | ***** t. a mass of confusion            |
| 21. tumultuous  | ***** u. illogical                      |
| 22. turbulent   | ***** v. full of twists and turns       |
| 23. unweildy    | ***** w. unpleasant noise               |
| 24. welter      | ***** x. unnerving                      |

## COLLUSION WITH THE ENEMY

Cooperation is so vital to society that it persists even in the most competitive endeavors. Belligerent armies during a siege *tacitly* agree not to attack during

mealtimes since having one's own feast disturbed by retaliation negates any **material** benefit from the original assault. Military necessity is, at times, **subservient** to the physical and spiritual needs of the soldiers. On Christmas Eve in 1914, units along the western front of World War I engaged in a ceasefire of their own **volition** in honor of the holiday. Commanders on both sides did not **condone** such fraternization and punished many responsible. However, the event is celebrated today as an example of the spirit of brotherhood that **galvanizes** all honorable warriors. It explains why veterans from opposite sides of a conflict are often able to become fast friends years later.

1. Moral decisions are those made by \_\_\_\_\_ and not under compulsion.
2. Martyrs have a way of \_\_\_\_\_ adherents to a cause more powerfully than rhetoric.
3. Monks of any faith regard \_\_\_\_\_ attachments as distractions from the spiritual.
4. Old partners, Scrooge and Marley could communicate by mere \_\_\_\_\_ looks.
5. No one knows if Montcalm \_\_\_\_\_ attacking the British who had surrendered.
6. Douglass notes that Mrs. Auld was initially uncomfortable with the \_\_\_\_\_

7. tacit \_\_\_\_\_ a. to allow; to offer unspoken approval
8. material \_\_\_\_\_ b. unspoken
9. subservient \_\_\_\_\_ c. actions of one's own will
10. volition \_\_\_\_\_ d. obedient
11. condone \_\_\_\_\_ e. to unify; to harden
12. galvanize \_\_\_\_\_ f. of concrete value

## THE CORPORATE POINT OF VIEW

The concept of the corporation is, at first, a hard one to **rationalize**. Some consider such entities to represent nothing more than **coteries** of magnates who despoil all weaker competition. Those who **advocate** for corporations counter that, taken to an extreme, competition can be destructive to everyone. During the nineteenth century,

John D. Rockefeller observed that when oil reservoirs are drained by too many competing wells, pressure is lost and more oil is left in the ground. He also saw that too much oil on the market leads to prices too low to justify its extraction.

Rockefeller's solution was Standard Oil, a corporation that made partners of small drillers under the *aegis* of a single banner. Standard Oil's success *vindicated* Rockefeller's vision and, before long, corporations were in *vogue* throughout American business.

1. For decades, a \_\_\_\_\_ of baseball owners kept wages low by barring free agency.
2. Robespierre \_\_\_\_\_ many executions as "necessary to preserve the Revolution."
3. Madison argued that the states are stronger under the \_\_\_\_\_ of one nation.
4. Fashions that are in \_\_\_\_\_ to one generation can appear ridiculous to posterity.
5. The right of conquest claims that victory at arms \_\_\_\_\_ the winner's position.
6. To maintain position, one should minimize \_\_\_\_\_ for ideas that have fallen into disfavor with the regime.

7. rationalize \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to uphold
8. coterie \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** the latest fashion
9. advocate \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** to justify what one desires
10. aegis \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** an inner circle
11. vindicate \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** to argue for a person or position
12. vogue \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** a unifying banner or standard

Dueling is the defunct practice by which gentlemen settled disputes involving personal honor. The "code" of dueling demanded that the parties would first try to *concur* on a peaceful resolution. If both remained adamant, however, they would agree on a time, place, and weapon with which to conduct an "interview." Each combatant's entourage of "seconds" would then settle the details. On the day of the contest, each duelist's closest confidant would inspect the weapons and dueling

ground before the fight commenced. Victory in such contests was an ancillary concern compared with upholding one's reputation as a paragon of honor and courage. The objective was usually to draw first blood, but many lives were still claimed by such affairs.

1. The War of 1812 was an \_\_\_\_\_ contest of the Napoleonic Wars.
  2. The position of consigliere is held by the closest \_\_\_\_\_ of a mafioso.
  3. To prevent accidents, two officers must \_\_\_\_\_ before a nuclear weapon is fired.
  4. To the Ancient Greeks, Hercules was the \_\_\_\_\_ of strength.
  5. Stars that avoid having an \_\_\_\_\_ tend to remain grounded and practical.
  6. Despite his \_\_\_\_\_ disapproval of Stalin, Churchill hated Hitler more.
- 
7. concur \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** secondary; supplemental
  8. adamant \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** a trustworthy friend
  9. entourage \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** a perfect example
  10. confidant \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** to agree
  11. ancillary \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** a circle of followers
  12. paragon \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** set on a point of view

## HONOR AMONG THIEVES

The Golden Age of Piracy began during the sixteenth century when the English and Dutch found it **conducive** to their interests to authorize privateers. The successes of buccaneers like Henry Morgan raiding the Spanish certainly **corroborated** this view but it also set an awful precedent. Sailors who enjoyed the wealth and freedom of privateering were loath to live any other way when the wars ended. Thus, the unintended **progeny** of this system were men of a different **ilk** who fought under their own flags. They elected as captains their most able leaders. The result of this perverse meritocracy was men like Blackbeard, who spent years **substantiating** reputations for cunning and ruthlessness. With towns like Nassau as **havens**, the pirates became a scourge to all transatlantic commerce.

1. Associating with the \_\_\_\_\_ of bootleggers and gangsters harms Gatsby's

respectability.

2. Switzerland was a well-armed \_\_\_\_\_ during both world wars.
3. Multiple independent witnesses \_\_\_\_\_ the prosecutor's charges.
4. Parents in industrial societies have fewer \_\_\_\_\_ than in pre-industrial times.
5. The Zimmerman Telegram \_\_\_\_\_ Wilson's case that Germany had to be stopped.
6. Offering free alcohol has proven quite \_\_\_\_\_ to casino profits.

7. conducive \_\_\_\_\_ **a.** to provide material evidence
8. corroborate \_\_\_\_\_ **b.** enabling
9. progeny \_\_\_\_\_ **c.** to support another's testimony
10. ilk \_\_\_\_\_ **d.** sanctuary
11. substantiate \_\_\_\_\_ **e.** offspring
12. haven \_\_\_\_\_ **f.** similar people

### REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. adamant \*\*\*\*\* **a.** to argue for a person or position
2. advocate \*\*\*\*\* **b.** to uphold
3. aegis \*\*\*\*\* **c.** to provide material\* evidence
4. ancillary \*\*\*\*\* **d.** of concrete value
5. concur \*\*\*\*\* **e.** sanctuary
6. condone \*\*\*\*\* **f.** unspoken
7. conducive \*\*\*\*\* **g.** a circle of followers
8. confidant \*\*\*\*\* **h.** a unifying banner or standard
9. corroborate \*\*\*\*\* **i.** to agree
10. coterie \*\*\*\*\* **j.** actions of one's own will
11. entourage \*\*\*\*\* **k.** to allow; to offer unspoken approval
12. galvanize \*\*\*\*\* **l.** to unify; to harden
13. haven \*\*\*\*\* **m.** a trustworthy friend
14. ilk \*\*\*\*\* **n.** similar people



15. material	***** o. obedient
16. paragon	***** p. set on a point of view
17. progeny	***** q. secondary; supplemental
18. rationalize	***** r. the latest fashion
19. subservient	***** s. enabling
20. substantiate	***** t. to justify what one desires
21. tacit	***** u. an inner circle
22. vindicate	***** v. a perfect example
23. vogue	***** w. to support another's testimony
24. volition	***** x. offspring

## ANCIENT EMPIRES OF THE “NEW” WORLD

One of the anomalies of our approach to history is the propensity to look only to Europe for *exemplars* of great and *charismatic* societies. Despite living in the Western Hemisphere, Americans fall under the same spell. That the Incan Empire began four millennia ago and lasted until the sixteenth century ought to instill some *humility* in European ethnocentrists. Although their empire is gone, descendants of the Incas can take *solace* in wonders that have survived. Cusco and Machu Picchu, Incan ruins poised high in the Andes, are *poignant* reminders that the inhabitants of this half of the world were just as capable as their Greco-Roman counterparts. Similarly, we owe *deference* to the Mayans, one of only a handful of civilizations on Earth to independently invent a system of writing.

1. How many ideas have been lost because their thinkers lacked \_\_\_\_\_ ?
2. The most intense competitors take little \_\_\_\_\_ in moral victories.
3. In Greek tragedy, lack of \_\_\_\_\_ is a flaw of many figures punished by the gods.
4. Jon Snow considers his father to be an \_\_\_\_\_ of honesty.
5. Jefferson made it a point to show equal \_\_\_\_\_ to all foreign dignitaries.
6. Dido's Lament is the \_\_\_\_\_ valedictory speech of a spurned queen.

7. exemplar \_\_\_\_\_ a. comfort
8. charisma \_\_\_\_\_ b. respect

9. humility \_\_\_\_\_ c. moving  
10. solace \_\_\_\_\_ d. perfect specimen  
11. poignant \_\_\_\_\_ e. charm  
12. deference \_\_\_\_\_ f. meekness

## A BATTLE FOR POWER

It's often been said that the projection of strength is the most important attribute of a wartime leader. Certainly, many a *demagogue* has cultivated an image of machismo by strutting in uniform. However, during its three worst wars, the United States was led by a lawyer, a college professor, and an *affable* socialite in a wheelchair. All three had a *virtuosity* as war leaders that was not readily apparent. Abraham Lincoln was by all accounts physically strong—he could hold an axe at arm's length for one minute— but was by nature a *congenial*, yarn-spinning country lawyer. Woodrow Wilson, the first PhD elected president, had a sense of personal *rectitude* one might expect from a preacher. FDR, after losing the use of his legs to polio, gained strength as a *philanthropist* running a hot springs resort for fellow sufferers. All three possessed a strength of purpose that served them better than the martial fortitude of generals and knights.

1. Edmond Dantes was \_\_\_\_\_ company for the Abbé Faria.
2. Many great museums were endowed by nineteenth century \_\_\_\_\_ .
3. Greatness is not always accompanied by personal \_\_\_\_\_ .
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ arouses the passions of the masses for selfish ends.
5. No other element can match the \_\_\_\_\_ of carbon in forming compounds.
6. Long John Silver proves a more \_\_\_\_\_ leader than Captain Flint.

7. demagogue \_\_\_\_\_ a. like-minded  
8. affable \_\_\_\_\_ b. a leader who appeals to people's emotions  
9. virtuosity \_\_\_\_\_ c. pleasant and friendly  
10. congenial \_\_\_\_\_ d. benefactor  
11. rectitude \_\_\_\_\_ e. versatility  
12. philanthropist \_\_\_\_\_ f. righteousness

In 1943, Ayn Rand published a novel noteworthy for the unconventionality of its hero. Howard Roark, the protagonist of *The Fountainhead*, is an architect with **impeccable** manners, but who makes no effort to be **amiable**. He lives **frugally** because he has no desire to impress. Devoted to his inner vision, he constructs buildings that flaunt their modernity, with no **conciliatory** nods to the neoclassical designs then in vogue. In time, independent-minded individuals come to love his buildings and **congregate** around him because of his devotion to excellence. In the end, he designs a housing project—not to be **altruistic**, but because he enjoys solving its technical challenges. When his design is changed without his permission, he destroys the building and successfully defends his right to do so in court, arguing that creators offer their best efforts on their own terms and expect the same in exchange from others.

1. The Trojans thought the wooden horse on their beach to be a \_\_\_\_\_ gesture.
  2. A rare few are so \_\_\_\_\_ that they give their lives to helping the downtrodden.
  3. Children during the Great Depression grew up to be naturally \_\_\_\_\_ adults.
  4. The forgery was so \_\_\_\_\_ that it went unnoticed by experts for years.
  5. People \_\_\_\_\_ around televisions on the afternoon that JFK was assassinated.
  6. A teacher cannot be so \_\_\_\_\_ that she passes students who haven't earned it.
- 
- |                  |       |                           |
|------------------|-------|---------------------------|
| 7. impeccable    | _____ | a. careful with money     |
| 8. amiable       | _____ | b. to gather together     |
| 9. frugal        | _____ | c. concerned about others |
| 10. conciliatory | _____ | d. likeable               |
| 11. congregate   | _____ | e. without mistakes       |
| 12. altruistic   | _____ | f. offering peace         |

## THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING NICE

It used to be a maxim of polite society that it never hurts to be **amicable**. When Aaron Burr met Alexander Hamilton on the dueling ground of Weehawken, the too old rivals were unfailingly **cordial** to the very end. In fact, just before shooting him, Burr allowed Hamilton to retrieve his glasses! The moral, if there is one, is that people can show **equanimity** toward everyone—even enemies. Humans are naturally **gregarious** creatures. Studies have shown that it is actually stressful to not return a smile or greeting. Giving in to the **convivial** spirit can improve one's mood and may lead to a **benevolent** disposition simply by habit.

1. Jesse Owens's \_\_\_\_\_ endeared him to his fellow Olympians from all nations.
2. Bill Clinton and George Bush, naturally \_\_\_\_\_ men, became friends after office.
3. Such a \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bipartisanship relies on an \_\_\_\_\_
5. Prince Hans's \_\_\_\_\_ personality soon evaporated, revealing his selfishness.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ feeling between families allowed friendships to form among in-laws.

7. amicable \_\_\_\_\_ a. outgoing
8. cordial \_\_\_\_\_ b. kind; generous
9. equanimity \_\_\_\_\_ c. not outwardly hostile
10. gregarious \_\_\_\_\_ d. evenness of temper
11. convivial \_\_\_\_\_ e. gracious; polite
12. benevolent \_\_\_\_\_ f. friendly; jovial

## REVIEW WORDS DEFINITIONS

1. affable \*\*\*\*\* a. gracious; polite
2. altruistic \*\*\*\*\* b. offering peace
3. amiable \*\*\*\*\* c. benefactor

<b>4.</b> amicable	***** <b>d.</b> friendly; jovial
<b>5.</b> benevolent	***** <b>e.</b> moving
<b>6.</b> charisma	***** <b>f.</b> versatility
<b>7.</b> conciliatory	***** <b>g.</b> a leader who appeals to people's emotions
<b>8.</b> congenial	***** <b>h.</b> careful with money
<b>9.</b> congregate	***** <b>i.</b> charm
<b>10.</b> convivial	***** <b>j.</b> to gather together
<b>11.</b> cordial	***** <b>k.</b> comfort
<b>12.</b> deference	***** <b>l.</b> meekness
<b>13.</b> demagogue	***** <b>m.</b> respect
<b>14.</b> equanimity	***** <b>n.</b> outgoing
<b>15.</b> exemplar	***** <b>o.</b> righteousness
<b>16.</b> frugal	***** <b>p.</b> concerned about others
<b>17.</b> gregarious	***** <b>q.</b> without mistakes
<b>18.</b> humility	***** <b>r.</b> kind; generous
<b>19.</b> impeccable	***** <b>s.</b> not outwardly hostile
<b>20.</b> philanthropist	***** <b>t.</b> evenness of temper
<b>21.</b> poignant	***** <b>u.</b> perfect specimen
<b>22.</b> rectitude	***** <b>v.</b> likeable
<b>23.</b> solace	***** <b>w.</b> like-minded
<b>24.</b> virtuosity	***** <b>x.</b> pleasant and friendly